

Table of international news items with country names and brief headlines.

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48,577

How many child abuse stories remain untold?

Unending nightmare

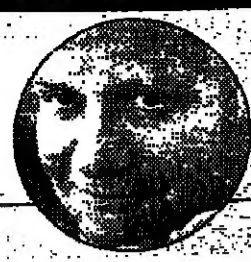
G2 with European weather



Nick Hornby gets the big screen treatment

A film of two halves

G2 pages 4/5



Society

Ensuring a future for cities

G2 page 10/11

Cuckoo in Tory nest

Rival 'party' funds rebels

Michael White Political Editor

TORY loyalists were last night urging John Major to crack the disciplinary whip over their party's Eurosceptics...

Through ministers shrugged off the spectacle of almost half their backbenchers supporting Bill Cash's token bill for an early referendum...

Mr Cash's European Foundation has accepted donations from what Labour dubbed 'a foreign-based billionaire' since 1993...

The former prime minister Sir Edward Heath led calls for the whips to intervene with local parties and put a stop to it...

In a statement last night Sir James said he had funded the European Foundation at its inception...

They believe Sir James's support for his bill - with full-page advertisements in national newspapers last week...

With Mr Blair cauntering Mr Major over his refusal to denounce the bill in advance...



Tory Eurosceptic Bill Cash at the Millbank TV studios yesterday before he launched his referendum bill in the Commons



Tory said Lord Nolan should examine the issue.

The row overshadowed the 95-1 vote on Mr Cash's Referendum Bill...

Mr Major was last night said to be 'very relaxed' about what party officials called 'an irrelevant sideshow'.

EU leaders sense Major retreat on lifting beef ban

EUROPEAN Union leaders are increasingly confident that John Major is about to settle the beef war in return for an agreement on a phased lifting of the export ban...

any framework would demand complete satisfaction that measures promised by Britain to eliminate BSE had been successful.

Abandoned all hope in the election and misplaced belief by others that jingoism is the only option left for winning the election.

Gold touch

Sir James Goldsmith's donations

1987 To help Tories fight General Election.

1992 To help Conservative Party fight General Election.

1996 To fund Sir James's European Foundation and back his Referendum Bill.

Simon Hoggart, page 2; Leader comment, page 2; Single currency criteria 'need relaxing', page 12

President's plat du jour - battered bacon with cream gravy or chip buttie with mayonnaise

Ian Katz in New York

IN CASE Whitewater. Paula Jones and the unfolding FBI files controversy were not enough to keep them awake at night...

dishes up the dirt on the president's appetite for nutritionally incorrect dishes, such as Battered and Fried Bacon with Cream Gravy or Mayonnaise and Potato Chip Sandwich...

officially anonymous, although Jaime Schilcher, a chef who has cooked for Mr Clinton, has been less reticent than her fiction-writing counterpart.

ridiculed as a compulsive eater with a penchant for junk food.

ner, he made light of his heavyweight appetite, asking who Americans would trust to choose the toppings on their take-out pizzas.

as 'strictly boiled chicken'. Mr Dole's campaign staff have been quick to rebut the charge that their candidate is a man of unadventurous tastes.

Inside

Britain All-party talks on Northern Ireland hovered between crisis and farce as Unionists continued to obstruct George Mitchell as chairman

World News Angola faces crisis as demobilised soldiers return to establish an already tense and divided country

Finance Consumers will pay another £400 million this year to help clean up old nuclear reactors even though electricity bills will be cut by £20

Sport Two goals from Casiraghi gave Italy a flying start to Euro 96 with a 2-1 win against Russia to top their group with Germany

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PM blunders with lottery grants jibe

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE Prime Minister last night looked to have scored an own-goal when he launched an outspoken attack on the National Lottery Charities Board for giving 'ill-judged' grants to groups working with gays, prostitutes and asylum-seekers.

It emerged that two of the four groups cited by John Major's office had been government-funded. A third has been consulted regularly by the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Major told the Commons that the boards distributing lottery good-cause money 'from time to time make awards that are ill-founded and ill-judged'.

Speaking about grant awards at prime minister's question time, Mr Major said: 'A small number do not in my judgment reflect the way Parliament and the public expected lottery money to be spent.'

His comments came after the lottery charities board awarded a total £159 million to 2,229 organisations working with young people and those on low income.

A spokesman for Mr Major said his remarks had been prompted by grants totalling almost £235,000 by the board to the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project, the West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign, the Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre and Gay and Lesbian London Policing.

Although not named by Downing Street, the Reading-based Reach Out Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group received £11,681 for a three-year research and development project.

A spokesman for Mr Major said his remarks had been prompted by grants totalling almost £235,000 by the board to the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project, the West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign, the Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre and Gay and Lesbian London Policing.

As further details of the groups emerged, it was confirmed that the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project had been funded by £3,480 a year for the past three years by the Scottish Office with the aim of 'minimising the spread of AIDS among prostitutes in Scotland'.

It also emerged that the Leicester group had been turned to page 3, column 4

On the list

Scottish Prostitutes Education Project. Provides support and information to young male and female prostitutes; has been funded by Lothian health board and the Scottish Office; based in Edinburgh. £81,563 lottery cash over three years will pay for a staff member, office, training and running costs.

West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign: supports and provides information for asylum-seekers, refugees and others affected by the Immigration and Asylum Act; based in Birmingham. £65,858 over three years to produce information material.

Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre: provides counselling and support; has been funded by Home Office and Department of Health. £49,586 over three years will pay for part-time and seasonal youth workers, and fund related running costs.

Gay and Lesbian London Policing (Galop): civilian group which monitors the policing of the capital's gay community and advises the Metropolitan Police. £28,100 for one year to employ a full-time 'outreach' worker and meet running costs of a support service for young victims of homophobic abuse and attacks.

Life's Too Short For Life Insurance advertisement for Virgin Direct, including contact number 0345 95 95 95 and details of the service.

Sketch

Greengrocer from Mexico cashes in



Simon Hoggart

BILL Cash should remember, never go on stage with children, animals, or Tony Banks. Mr Cash is the Eurosceptic's Eurosceptic, a man of immense height, only slightly less gravitas, and a fund of fascinating knowledge about such scandals as the European osprey mountain.

His speech on a referendum yesterday had been trailed for days. There was no current affairs programme which did not feature Cash (the family money comes from Cash's name tapes, which also allow you to leave the same message in hundreds of places).

We were told it would be necessary but not sufficient for Tory backbenchers to vote for Mr Cash's bill if Sir James Goldsmith were not to put up candidates against them. It now turns out that Mr Cash has been a Tory since money from Sir James in order to promote his cause, which seems curious, since the Goldsmith candidates plan to stand in order to take seats from Tory MPs.

In the past an MP who did this (imagine Labour MP taking Tory money) would have been locked by the whips in a darkened cell with rabid bats for company.

But these days the Government is so frightened of the Eurosceptics that they can get away with anything. Prime Minister's Questions ended (once again Mr Major declined to do anything bold, such as saying that he disagreed with the Eurosceptics) and the entire government front bench fled, all at once, rather than risk being in the same Chamber as Mr Cash.

His speech was standard anti-European boilerplate: "A tidal wave of federalism... an introverted and collapse Europe." It was well received, largely because Mr Cash is a bore, and MPs like

bored. They make them feel cosy and unthreatened. Then Mr Banks stood up. He was a surprising choice as challenger, being best known for his successful appearances on radio quiz shows and his constant barracking from the back benches.

But Mr Banks was brilliant. All his anger and rage came pouring out, washing over the sceptics, taunting them, reviling them, showering them with his contempt like so much spittle.

It was a rant, at times incoherent, always offensive, entirely over the top. And what a relief it was. After all the pussyfooting, all the placatory words, all the dead obfuscations we have had from the Tory front bench and, worse, all that smug *de haut en bas* condescension from the Eurosceptics drivelling on about their dreary friends Guido and Helmut, it was a blast from a water cannon on a sweltering hot day.

Euroscepticism has become the political correctness of the right, and it has gone too long unchallenged.

When Mr Banks warned that the European Union wouldn't back down, and that Britain couldn't go on cutting off our own proposals to spite our colleagues, the anti-sceptics stood to see which is strictly forbidden (jeering and yelling is fine; booing is banned).

They couldn't take it. They didn't just disagree with Mr Banks, they thought he had no right even to think what he said. He couldn't have got a more satisfying reaction if he had walked into Hackney Women's Collective and denounced lesbianism.

"I don't like this bill because I don't like being dictated to by a rich greengrocer who lives in Mexico and pays no taxes here. I don't mind Tories being defeated, but I want them defeated by the voters, not by a greengrocer from Mexico!" he yelled.

Mr Banks is an old friend of the Prime Minister from their days at Lambeth council. Mr Major often twits him about his vegetarian diet. Since Mr Banks showed rather more passion and guts on Europe in five minutes yesterday than the Prime Minister has in five years, maybe he too should try a diet of yoghurt sandwiches and carrots.



'There are strong indications that advisers lied in their Whitewater testimony'



Clinton aides face perjury charges

TWO top White House aides and a woman lawyer who was Hillary Clinton's closest adviser are threatened with formal indictments for perjury, in an escalation of the Whitewater inquiry which is coming ominously closer to the president's wife.

The Senate's special committee on Whitewater is expected next week to make a formal recommendation to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, that perjury charges be brought against Harold Ickes, White House deputy chief of staff, Margaret Williams, chief of staff to Mrs Clinton, and Susan Thomas, a close friend and adviser to the First Lady.



Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth attend a Washington dinner for his retirement from Senate to concentrate on the presidential campaign. The growing scandal surrounding the Clintons, left, including a new controversy over FBI files, has given him an ideal political opportunity

Net closes in on First Lady

Clinton aides face perjury charges

They claim Mr Ickes was guilty of perjury in failing to recall discussions with the Clintons about their legal liabilities in the Whitewater affair, or about the role of the independent counsel.

It was a blunder, a big one, but innocent," Mr Fabiani said. Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, admitted the error was "inexcusable".

They claim Mr Ickes was guilty of perjury in failing to recall discussions with the Clintons about their legal liabilities in the Whitewater affair, or about the role of the independent counsel.

These are hopelessly tainted hearings," Mark Fabiani, of the White House counsel's office, told the Guardian yesterday. "American voters know that Senator D'Amato is chairman of the Dole election campaign. No fair-minded person will give credence to his report, which will be made irrespective of the real facts."

Other Whitewater pitfalls loom for the Clintons. The trial of two Arkansas bankers, accused of making illegal payments to Mr Clinton's 1990 governorship campaign, starts in 10 days.

First night

Playing tricks with despair

Lyn Gardner

The Trick is to Keep Breathing Royal Court, London

A WOMAN with red hair and a black dress stands in front of a microphone. Behind her are two women, one in a white dress, the other in a black dress. They are talking over each other, words entwining. The first woman opens her mouth in an oh-gasp of despair and screams.

Welcome inside the mind of Joy Stone, teacher, orphaned daughter, bereaved lover and the heroine of Janice Galloway's remarkable 1990 Scottish novel about cracking up. Joy's mother has walked into the sea and her lover has died in a swimming pool accident. Joy carries her grief around like the stone in her name. She gives up food. She is so light that she floats. "Time is not a good healer. I have a good memory," she says.

In Michael Boyd's production, originally produced at Glasgow's Tron theatre, the pain of Joy's disintegration is physically manifest. Siobhan Redmond, Jennifer Black and Tracy Wilde, who play the different aspects of Joy — her public persona, her private turmoil, and her lost self — writhe and clutch at the air or move like sleepwalkers beneath the sea. The microphone throws feedback at them like a well aimed punch, a physical hurt. Scissors are

wielded to score the word ME into canvas, red paint welling like blood from a wound. Joy admits that she has a problem getting outside of her head. So does the production. When we do escape it comes as little relief. But even the world outside the insistent red ME is savage and grotesque. The health visitor dribbles tea down her chin as she assures Joy that she knows exactly how she feels because her niece once fell off her bicycle and almost died; in a hospital group therapy session the terminally despairing are asked to discuss the plight of unemployed youth.

Boyd's adaptation makes a striking feature of the play's literary origins. Pieces of text are projected on to the stage, as if thoughts surfacing from Joy's subconscious.

This lends an extra dimension, just as using three actresses to play Joy allows interaction, not just monologue.

This production comes with slick packaging. Galloway's novel is by no means traditionally structured. Boyd has tweaked the narrative and overlaid the whole with a performance style that owes considerably more to the ICA than the RSC — where Boyd is mostly bound. This is fine, but often you are overly conscious of a trickiness, when nothing is needed except recognition that things don't always get worse before they get better. Sometimes they simply get worse.

Crisis and farce grip Ulster talks

Mitchell watches Euro 96 while parties try for goals over his role

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

THE Northern Ireland all-party talks hovered between crisis and farce last night as Unionists continued to obstruct the chairmanship of George Mitchell.

After 10 hours of bilateral meetings between party delegates, London and Dublin government ministers and Mr Mitchell — President Clinton's special Irish envoy — agreement was no nearer on how the talks can proceed.

Ulster Unionist leader, David Ervine, was remaining in custody but wants a sub-committee to consider new proposals concerning the extent of his powers before a chairman is sworn in.

The two governments and the six other parties want to appoint Mr Mitchell immediately and move on to the next item on the agenda while a separate sub-committee looks at his powers.

The depth of division was illustrated by bitter exchanges outside Castle Buildings during the day as the opposing sides vied to put the best possible gloss on their position.

warning him that there would be "bodies on the streets" unless the Unionist parties accepted Mr Mitchell. "I have told the Secretary of State that we will not have that behaviour in this building."

But the SDLP deputy leader, Seamus Mallon, said that was no more than the "fabricated title-tattle that the reverend gentleman always comes up with".

Meanwhile Mr Mitchell passed the day in his suite of offices watching the Euro 96 soccer tournament on television and holding a series of meetings with party leaders. Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, representing the UK Unionists, said that Mr Mitchell had sympathised with his position "because he believed he had a real role, but was short-changed because he was not aware of how the deal had been stitched up" between the governments.

Mr McCartney said: "Both the chairmanship and the ground rules appeared to be set down to encourage Sinn Fein/IRA to declare a ceasefire and enter talks."

The baleful influence of Sinn Fein/IRA is casting its shadow over all the discussions.

Gary McMichael, leader of the loyalist Ulster Democratic Party which has links with the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, angrily accused the main Unionist parties of trying to wreck the talks.

Murdoch £400m shares buy-back

Paul Murphy, Stock Market Correspondent

RUFERT Murdoch yesterday announced plans for a £400 million buy-back of News International, following the recent example of Telegraph proprietor Conrad Black.

The deal, which would take all the shares off the London stock market, will reduce the level of public scrutiny over his British newspaper and television interests.

Now investors in News International — speaking for about £400 million worth of stock — are being asked to swap their shares for special News Corporation stock.

Mr Murdoch has never been able to use his London stock market quotation to any useful effect. Reflecting the City's inherent distrust of newspaper barons, shares in News International have traded at a significant discount to their News Corporation counterparts over recent years. So yesterday's share-swap terms were greeted enthusiastically, and the price of shares in News International jumped by more than a quarter to 281p.

Car mechanic charged over IRA's Canary Wharf bomb

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

A CAR mechanic from Northern Ireland appeared in court in London yesterday charged in connection with the Canary Wharf bomb in which two died last February.

Patrick McKinley, aged 32, of Mullaghbawn, Neary, Co Down, was remaining in custody for nine days at Belmarsh magistrates court by stipendiary magistrate Peter Wallis.

McKinley was arrested last Friday in South Armagh in a joint army and police operation. He was flown to London and has been held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act

at Paddington Green police station. McKinley was driven to court in a five-vehicle convoy and charged with conspiracy to cause an explosion likely to endanger life and cause serious damage to property.

Five other men were arrested in last week's raids in Northern Ireland and London. Two men, one from Tottenham in north London and one from Barking in east London, were still being held last night.

Three other men, arrested in South Armagh, have been released. The explosion at South Quay in Canary Wharf on February 9 ended the IRA's ceasefire. Two newswriters died in the blast.

Advertisement for Hamilton Direct Bank, featuring a table of unsecured personal loans with columns for lender, APR, monthly repayments, total amount payable, and savings with Hamilton Direct Bank. Includes contact number 0800 30 3000.

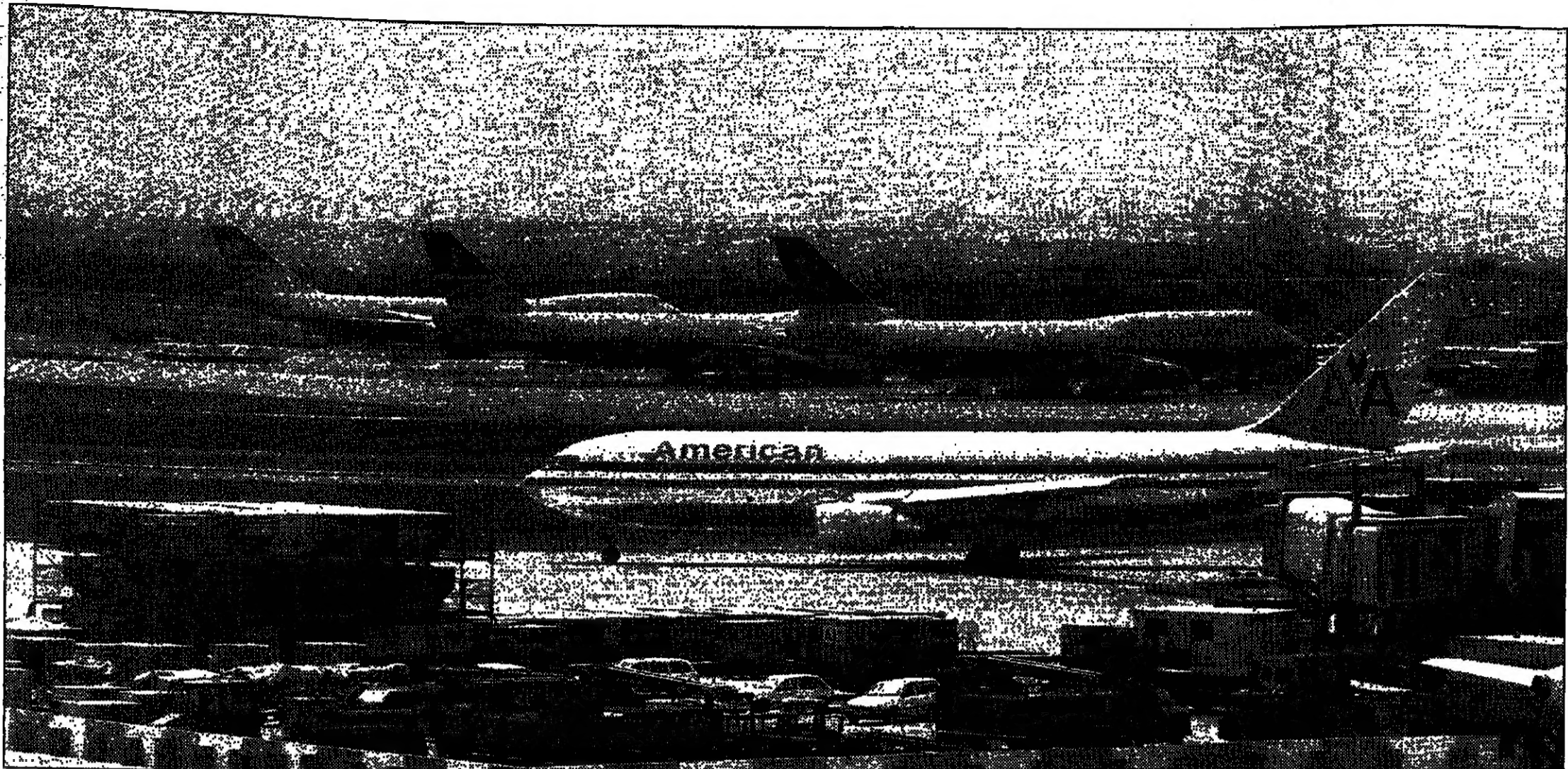
Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Virgin boss step', 'BA de', 'American al', 'commands of Atlantic m', and '7th bout of'.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom center of the page.

John Major 1996

Virgin boss steps up pressure for Minister to veto agreement 'that would create a dominant monster'

BA deal may deliver £100 fares to US



American Airways said BA planes on the tarmac at Heathrow. A tie-up could give them 60 per cent of Atlantic routes.

American alliance commands 60pc of Atlantic market

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

TRANSATLANTIC fares of little more than £100 could become the norm following the sealing of a global alliance yesterday between British Airways and American Airlines.

The deal, to come into force next April, would give the companies more than 60 per cent of traffic on the North Atlantic route. It awaits approval from the US and British governments, however, which may take a long time.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, forecast that prices between Britain and the US, which had dropped by 40 per cent over the past 10 years, would continue to fall. BA's cheapest low season fare to New York is £238. Virgin charges £198 and several analysts suggested last night that a £100 fare was possible in little more than two years' time.

The deal brought an immediate protest from Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary. Mr

operations of BA's 244 flights a week from the UK to its 22 destinations in the US, including Concorde services, and American's 238 flights a week from seven US airports to 12 European destinations.

Mr Ayling said: "Our alliance with American is very good news for consumers, for our employees and for our shareholders." He pointed out that the deal was "indefinite", expected to last at least 11 years, with heavy penalty clauses applying if one of the partners wanted to pull out after six years.

Critics have suggested that the partners will be able to secure more coveted slots at Heathrow. But Mr Ayling stressed that neither BA, which holds 40 per cent of the Heathrow slots, nor American was seeking to increase its entitlement.

"They have asked their governments for a bilateral agreement to increase competition and introduce regulations covering the alliance. The Department of Transport said last night the Government was interested in the proposals and would be exploring them with US officials.

The Civil Aviation Authority said the alliance brought "legitimate concerns" about competition and passengers' interests. The deal could reduce competition, which could be checked by introducing a new airline or "enhancing the competitive scope for a number of other airlines".

Mr Branson urged Sir George not to approve the deal. "What will be created will be a monster, an airline which is completely dominant."

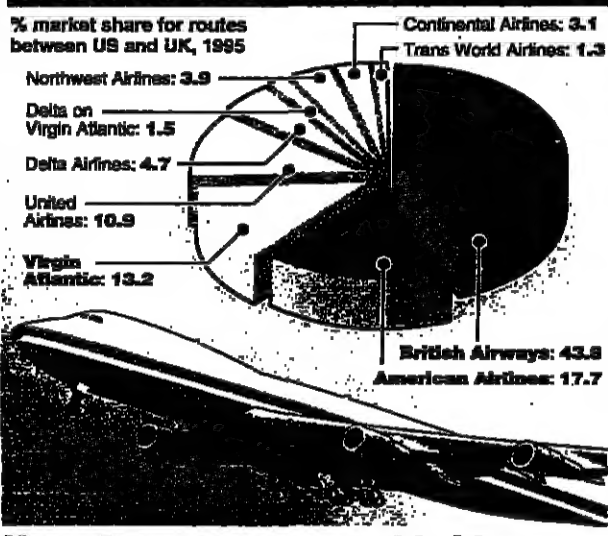
Mr Branson, whose airline is the third largest carrier between Britain and the US, said the deal was not in the consumer's interest and would inevitably lead to higher not cheaper fares. "It will make it far more difficult for smaller airlines to get off the ground, and keep the larger carriers alert."

BA and American say that by co-ordinating their networks they will offer the widest choice of routings and departure times between almost 36,000 locations, providing seamless connections through Europe, the Far East and Latin America.

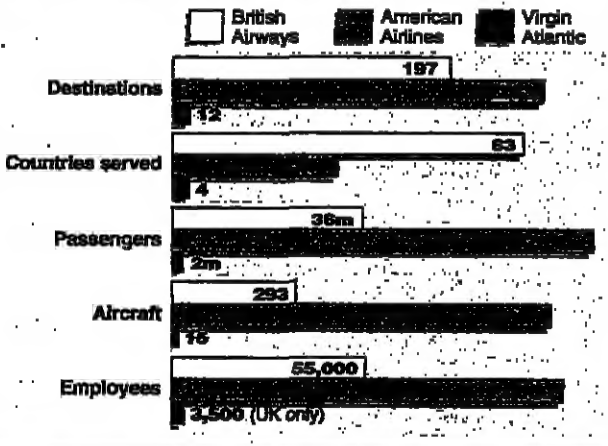
No exchange of equity or other forms of cross-shareholding are involved. The two companies will remain separate, retaining their identities, brands and nationalities. Each will continue to operate its own aircraft and crews, with no reduction in transatlantic flying by either.

The two carriers will establish a joint team to plan the

Lord of the skies



How they compare worldwide



Give us back a slice of the action, urges TWA

Mark Tran in New York

HARDLY was the ink dry on the BA/American deal, than TWA, a proud transatlantic carrier before it went bust, began clamouring for the return of its prestigious routes.

TWA, once owned by maverick billionaire Howard Hughes, lost its JFK to Heathrow slots to American Airlines when corporate raider Carl Icahn took over the ailing airline and sold the routes in 1991. Since then it has been reduced to flying into Gatwick from its base in St Louis, Missouri.

Yesterday's deal has prompted TWA to ask again for three flights a day

from JFK to Heathrow, as the airline has been fighting to get a slot out of JFK since 1994.

TWA's president and chief executive, Jeffrey Erickson, has written to the US Transportation Secretary, Federico Pena, saying: "The travelling public in this market is ill-served by the concentration of market power in the hands of very limited number of competitors."

Mr Erickson claimed the "unhealthy uncompetitive environment" was a direct result of "the UK international aviation policy to protect its flag carriers from additional competition."

TWA has timed its latest request for maximum effect given the wide concern over the dominance that BA and American will exercise over the transatlantic market once their alliance takes effect next year. Together the two carriers will control 60 per cent of traffic across the Atlantic.

In its application for return of the routes, TWA noted that BA recently announced record pre-tax profits of \$901 million (\$589 million), a significant portion of which was generated, it argued, on US-London routes.

No cult link in suicide pact

A BRITISH woman who killed herself in a suicide pact with her boyfriend at an American shooting range was pregnant, an inquest heard yesterday.

Ruth Fleming and Stephen Bateman, both 22, killed themselves by simultaneously placing handguns in their mouths and squeezing the triggers at a shooting range near Phoenix, Arizona, on February 21.

At yesterday's Durham City inquest it was revealed that Ms Fleming, originally from nearby Bowburn, was expecting a baby when she was killed.

John McCarthy, the pathologist who carried out a post mortem after her body was flown back to the UK, said she was 10 to 12 weeks pregnant.

The couple had previously been living at Andover, Hampshire, with Jane Greenhow, also 22, the inquest heard.

The three left Britain on January 6 and began a tour of the US. But for some reason they split up and the final tragedy came when Mr Bateman and Ms Fleming, with only 84 cents in cash between them, ended it all at the range.

Next day Ms Greenhow heard about their deaths on contacting the car hire company at Las Vegas and she was subsequently found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot in her hired car at Redding, northern California.

The couple may have been influenced by the 19th century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who influenced the Nazi movement, the inquest was told.

But despite books by him found in their hire car and a suicide note referring to his beliefs, there was no evidence that Mr Bateman and Ms Fleming had links with paramilitary or neo-Nazi groups.

The North Durham coroner, Geoffrey Burt, said the possibility had been checked out by the FBI, but no evidence of connections was found.

Recording suicide verdicts on Ms Fleming and Mr Bateman, the coroner said it was clear that both, or one of them, were interested in Nietzsche. "However, there is no evidence that there was any ulterior motive in going to the US," he added. "There is no evidence of any links with paramilitary or neo-Nazi organisations."

He was satisfied they did commit suicide and that it was premeditated.

The hearing was told all three friends were found in black combat-style gear when they died. Ms Fleming's toenails were painted black and she had a tattoo on her left upper arm, described as an unusual geometric shape.

The hearing began with the coroner explaining that he was not only resuming the inquest on Ms Fleming, which he opened on March 6, but also that of Mr Bateman, which was opened at Boston, Lincolnshire, on March 14.

7th bout of meningitis

Nick Varley

A WOMAN was last night in a critical condition in hospital after contracting meningitis for the seventh time.

Krystyn Wilde, aged 37, first contracted the disease more than six years ago and has suffered four repeats in the last eight months.

Her latest life-threatening bout came only 10 days after she was allowed home after recovering from another outbreak.

Last night her husband Alan, aged 41, said he had suggested that a crack in his wife's skull — the result of a childhood accident — may have made her more susceptible to the bacterial strain of the brain tissue disease.

This year doctors examined her skull and, after finding a small crack have promised an operation, which he hoped would take place after his wife recovered from the latest bout.

"When she had it for the third time, a doctor told me

that to have it once was bad, twice very rare, and three times just unknown," he said.

"She is very strong willed but it is a terrible thing to see happen to someone you love. To see someone suffer more than once is bad enough, but seven times? There must be an inquiry."

Mrs Wilde first contracted the disease on Christmas Eve, 1989. She recovered in a month and remained healthy for 18 months. But she suffered two more bouts before the latest series started in October.

On Saturday she was admitted to Sandwell General Hospital in the West Midlands suffering from pneumococcal meningitis.

She was later transferred to the intensive care unit at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, where doctors last night said her condition was critical.

Mr Wilde, of West Bromwich, said: "Every attack is more life-threatening than the last. Her system is breaking up and she just can't take any more."

"She is terrified. When I took her to hospital on Sunday she turned to me and said: 'Is it going to kill me, this one?'"

Mr Wilde added: "This last bout came on so strongly, so viciously, that it took me by surprise."

"I have got used to recognising the symptoms, they usually come over a few hours, but this took hold much faster."

Ray Thompson, of the National Meningitis Trust, said such a repeated outbreak was unique.

"There are some types of the disease which can recur but thankfully they are very, very rare. It is unusual for someone to suffer twice but where there has been a skull injury it does seem to complicate matters. That is not to say that anyone who has had a skull injury is going to get meningitis."

Mr Thompson added: "It is very unusual for someone of this age to contract the disease. It is normally either the young or the old, with their poorer defences."

Major blunders with 'ill-judged lottery grants' jibe at sex groups

continued from page 1

funded under a Home Office scheme, launched by Margaret Thatcher, and had received grants from the Department of Health.

Gay and Lesbian London Policing has regularly been called on by the police for advice on the gay community. It is said to be well respected by the Metropolitan force.

Mr Major's comments brought echoes of the embarrassment suffered last autumn by Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party chairman, when he ridiculed a Labour council's funding of the Hopscotch Asian Women's Group in north London — only to find it was also supported by the Home Office.

Downing Street said Mr Major's attention had been drawn to the four groups by Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary who has overall responsibility for the lottery. She had asked for a report from David Sieff, who chairs the charities board.

The board, which has full autonomy to make awards of

its choosing, last night defended the schemes as having been chosen on merit.

Mr Sieff said: "Projects assisting gay people, lesbians and deportees account for less than 1 per cent of the £169 million awarded today. The board will be willing to explore the benefits of the particular schemes it has approved to ministers and the media."

The board has been under fire for its awards, which have so far concentrated on poverty and youth issues, since it started making grants last October.

It yesterday announced it was to seek the views of the public on which charities should benefit. "Public focus groups" are being set up this summer in each English region and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to supplement voluntary sector consultation.

Of the £169 million awarded yesterday, 258 million is going to 384 charities working with people on low income and £91 million to 1,265 youth issue groups.

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They thumb their noses at John Major, the leader of the country to which they claim allegiance. They must be the most disloyal loyalists in history. They refuse to give an inch. For them "no surrender" is not a slogan; it is a way of life.

Roy Greenslade

G2 page 7

Waldegrave claims drive to deregulate market has created more employment in comments denounced by Labour as 'complacent'

Fears for job security 'unfounded'

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

THE Government yesterday issued a staunch defence of Britain's record as a creator of high quality jobs, describing claims of growing job insecurity as exaggerated.

The Chief Treasury Secretary, William Waldegrave, told the American Chambers of Commerce that the Conservative drive to deregulate the labour market had delivered more jobs, compared to the burdensome rules governing work in continental European countries.

"Big government not only destroys freedom - it destroys jobs," he said. "Keeping the state in check - and thereby helping the magic of the market to provide jobs is the best way to achieve a society which is not divided against itself by the cancer of long-term unemployment."

Mr Waldegrave tackled claims that removing job rules had generated only low-skill, fragile "hamburger-flipping" employment. He cited new Treasury figures showing that two-thirds of the jobs created since 1993 had been in occupations with above-average wages.

Although he admitted job insecurity had risen, he said fears were not in line with



William Waldegrave: 'Big government destroys jobs'



John Prescott: Short-term contracts bring insecurity

real trends in the jobs market, and denied any link between government reforms - such as the abolition of the wages councils or erosion of trade union rights - and insecurity.

"Deregulation has been blamed for creating a climate in which nobody can feel secure in a job. This is simplistic and misleading. The structure of an economy cannot be picked in a pie."

But Labour seized on his comments as evidence that the Government is out of touch with voters. The deputy Labour leader, John Prescott, said: "Mr Waldegrave has no experience of part-time work. I must tell him that insecurity comes from having short-term contracts. It's that kind

of fact that most people live with from day to day, and Mr Waldegrave appears to be complacent about."

But Mr Waldegrave said people were working part-time because it suited them, and cited more part-timers as evidence of a truly flexible labour market.

Last night economists said general economic trends were far more important than narrow technical discussions about the degree of regulation.

They agreed with Mr Waldegrave's claim that two-thirds of the jobs created since the autumn of 1993 have been in industries paying above average wages, but said this was simply an extension of a post-war trend away from

unskilled manual labour towards "brain work".

John Philpott, director of the Employment Policy Institute, said: "This is hardly a new discovery. There has been a long collapse in demand for unskilled work. In fact, the problem is we're not creating enough poor jobs, for all the unskilled labour."

Another shift in the shape of Britain's job market, highlighted by Labour, has been towards part-time work: there are more than 6 million part-timers, up from less than 4 million in 1981. Meanwhile, the number of people in full-time jobs has dropped by more than 1 million.

But experts said the drift to part-time work is unrelated to the reforms of the 1980s, having grown more rapidly - albeit from a low base - in the 1950s and 1960s than the 1980s. Mr Waldegrave's attack on the notion that Britain has become a hire-and-fire workplace, with people moving at dizzying pace from job to job, was also backed by a labour market expert at the London School of Economics, Peter Robinson. He said average job tenure is now eight years, compared to nine years when Margaret Thatcher came to power. "Hardly a revolution."

Analysis also agreed that Britain's recent record on job creation was better than in continental Europe. But economists, while disagreeing about the desirability of job regulation, all said this performance had been less to do with legislation than with macro-economic policy.

Dr Robinson said: "I am looking to the fact we have finally got the balance of macro-economic policy right, rather than to labour market reforms. Although we could easily have some modest re-regulation without adverse consequences."

Patrick Minford, a free market member of the Government's advisory panel of economists, said deregulation would have helped Britain's job performance more if the Government had pursued an even more expansionary policy. "Deregulation does work, but hasn't really had the chance to show its paces yet because we are still running policy too tight."



Shantiel Bell with her children, Shannel, aged 13, and Steven, 10. 'The jobs aren't there.' PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

Winners and losers in a tight market

Ex-counsellor seeks advice in work hunt

EVEN a degree failed to keep Shantiel Bell off the dole queue. She has got desperate enough to consider "hostess" work, writes Sarah Ryle.

The 34-year-old mother of two was made redundant from her job as a Citizens' Advice Bureau counsellor in east London last year as funding dried up. She joined the CAB in 1988 with a sociology degree and a college qualification in welfare rights. She earned up to £20,000.

She said: "I loved that job, and I've tried to get

Accountant profits from loss of job

NOT everybody has suffered as a result of rising job insecurity, writes Sarah Ryle.

Accountant John Burston, who lost his job nine years ago, has watched his client list swell as others have been forced out of traditional employment.

Based in Gloucester, Mr Burston, aged 43, now self-employed, works from home. The growth of short-term contracts over the past five years has put people of all ages and from a range of professions on his books.

"They all end up coming to

Accountant profits from loss of job

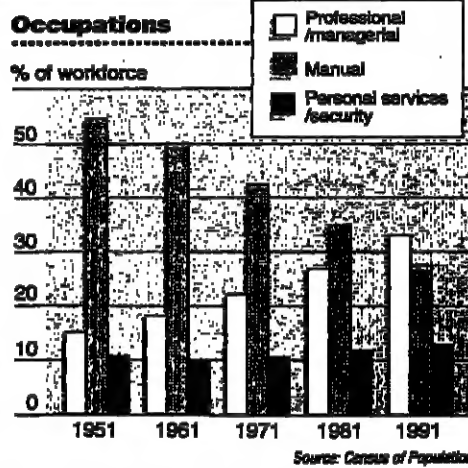
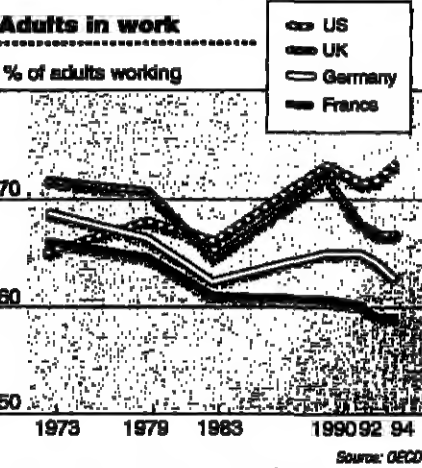
work in the same field but the jobs aren't there. I've gone for other work but the money is so bad.

"I've even started to look through the newspaper ads for hostess jobs. If anybody can tell me how else to get work, I'd want to hear from them."

People have turned self-employed to counterbalance their new insecurity with lower tax bills.

Mr Burston works a 70-hour, six-day week, but believes he would earn twice as much in a traditional job.

Workforce profile



PETROLEUM CONTROL COMMISSION

TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO MALAWI

The Petroleum Control Commission (PCC) of P.O. Box 2827, Blantyre, Malawi wish to invite sealed TENDERS from eligible suppliers for the supply of white petroleum products - Mogas (Petrol), Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel) and Dual Purpose Kerosene (Jet A-1 and Paraffin) for 1996/97 as specified below:-

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF TENDERING

- This invitation is open to all Oil Companies currently operating in Malawi, Oil Suppliers and registered Oil Trading Firms.
- All Tenderers shall declare any association and/or affiliation with any companies or government entities in Malawi which are involved with the procurement, transportation or marketing of petroleum products.
- Tenders should be valid for 80 days starting from the date fixed for receiving tenders. No tenders may be withdrawn for any reason between the deadline for submission of tenders and the expiration of the period of tender validity.
- The Tender should specify the sources of all products to be supplied.
- The duration of the supply contract shall be 12 (twelve) months from the date of commencement.
- PCC does not undertake to award against this tender or to accept the lowest tender bid in any particular case. In addition, PCC reserves the right to award only part of the supply to any tender offered and will not assign any reason for the rejection of a tender.
- Tenderers are required to provide all necessary information about their companies, with such information including, but not being limited to:-
 - Annual reports for 1994 and 1995 for public companies.
 - Major activities and customers for the last two years.
 - At least two first class international bank references.
- The original and two copies of the tenders, which should be in the English Language, should be addressed to the General Manager of the Petroleum Control Commission, at the following address:-
Petroleum Control Commission
5th Floor, Umoyo House
Victoria Avenue
P.O. Box 2827
Blantyre
MALAWI
Telephone: 00 265 620 155
Telefax: 00 265 620 908
Telex: 44887 PETROL M1
 so as to reach him, not later than 16.00 hours Malawi time on 28th June, 1996
- The envelope addressed to the Petroleum Control Commission, should bear the name of the tendering company, the words "TENDER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS" and the words "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 01.07.96." Tenders received after the deadline will be rejected and returned unopened to the Tenderers.
- All tender prices shall be quoted in United States Dollars per cubic metre on C.I.F and Ex-Tank basis, Beira, Nacala and Dar es Salaam Ports.

PRODUCTS QUANTITY

- The tender is for the supply of products covering the period starting from September, 1996 and ending August, 1997, which are estimated as follows:-

Mogas R.O.N. 93:.....80,000cm +/-10% at PCC's option
 Gas Oil :.....120,000cm +/-10% at PCC's option
 DPK :.....30,000cm +/-10% at PCC's option

Quantities are to be supplied on an approximately even flow basis over the duration of the contract and to be supplied through Beira, Nacala and Dar es Salaam Ports. PCC reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities in response to:-
 a. changes in demand of the products in Malawi, and
 b. prices offered.

PRODUCTS QUANTITY

- As per specifications in the tender document.
- Tender documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable deposit of United States Dollars 800.00 (Eight Hundred) from the General Manager, Petroleum Control Commission, P.O. Box 2827, Blantyre, Malawi. All enquiries regarding the Tender Documents should be made in writing to the General Manager.
- Members of the public may attend the opening of the tenders in the Boardroom of Petroleum Control Commission, 6th Floor, Umoyo House, Victoria Avenue, Blantyre, on 01.07.96, 15.00 hours, Malawi time.

Dennis S.J Kambalame
 GENERAL MANAGER
 PETROLEUM CONTROL COMMISSION

PETROLEUM CONTROL COMMISSION

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Census findings
Blacks

Family thrives far from estate's crowds

Gay Topp

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The growth of short-term

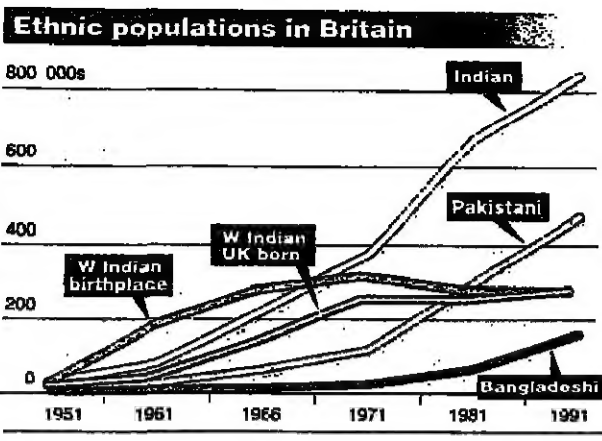
Census findings reveal growth of 'ethnic villages' in search for a better quality of life

Blacks move towards suburbs

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE black population is now mostly British-born and does not live in African-American style ghettos but instead has moved from the inner cities to "ethnic villages" in the suburbs...

collar workers with professional qualifications," said the study's author, Ceri Peach, of Oxford University. "The Jewish future seems to be coming about for the Indian population and to an extent for the Pakistani population, although not for the Bangladeshis..."



majority of children born in Britain. The move to the suburbs is most evident among the black Caribbeans, with a significant flight during the 1980s from London's inner city areas such as Lambeth, Tottenham and North Kensington to London suburbs such as Brent and Croydon.

than the more traditional areas of Brixton or Paddington. Over the past 30 years families have generally moved out of privately rented flats into council housing. Nearly half own their homes. The black Caribbean population is far more integrated than in the United States. The Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities do, however, live in high concentration "ethnic villages", particularly in West Yorkshire, the West Midlands, and east London.

hard working but disadvantaged with unemployment rates more than double the white average. The study says the key social differences between the ethnic groups lie in their patterns of family life: "The Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Chinese show traditional family patterns. Single person households are rare. There are few ethnically (mixed) and single parent households, while extended families are significant. Self employment is above average."

News in brief

Drug smuggler's jail term cut

THE 25-year jail sentence handed down to British woman Sandra Gregory by a court in Thailand has been cut by three years under an amnesty celebrating Thai King Bhumipol's golden jubilee, it was reported yesterday. Miss Gregory was sentenced four months ago after admitting trying to smuggle 88.6 grams of heroin in condoms through Bangkok airport.

Labour plans curfew trial

LABOUR is proposing a pilot scheme for a night-time curfew on children aged under 10, as suggested by Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, last week. Estelle Morris, MP for Birmingham Yardley, and George Howarth, the shadow home affairs minister, will meet senior police officers and residents in her constituency today to discuss how such an experiment could be implemented.

Family thrives far from estate's crowds

Gary Younger

Ge Bernard stands at her back door proudly showing off her plum and apple trees and reminiscing about the bad old days. "On the estate in Lambeth the police used to use the 'sus' law to trouble my children and once they kicked my door down," she says.



Quieter life... Ge Bernard outside her home in Thornton Heath, south London. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

The Stockwell estate in Lambeth, south London, is only a few miles up the road. But for a woman who was raised in a landowning family in Jamaica, it felt like another planet. "There was no privacy. You could hear everybody's business all around you and you didn't know who your children were mixing with."

"That way you can choose your neighbours and if you have your own place people have to think twice about troubling you." At the time she was one of the few black people in the area. "Being such a small minority is difficult at first. When my son was 15 the National Front beat him up just at the end of the road. No matter where you go your colour goes with you. I think

it is wrong when people try and move too far away from their community," she said. Yvonne Miller, the education officer of the Croydon race equality committee, says some black people have moved into the area to ensure their children get a decent education. Ms Bernard's children are all grown up and all have steady professional jobs, apart from the one who has

just finished university and another still at college. Standing in the middle of her road, Ms Bernard points from one end to the other giving a roll call of her neighbours' ethnic origins. "It's like the United Nations here. The one in the corner is white, next door is Polish, then Chinese, Guyanese, Jamaican, English and that one is from Ghana." Ms Bernard, a trained

social worker, is a councillor and runs the Croydon African Caribbean Family Organisation, which offers support and advice to black families in the area. While Thornton Heath is not paradise, she believes she now has a far superior quality of life. "It's not that some of the same problems might not arise that affected me on the estate. But you are a little bit more sheltered from them when they do."

Profiles

INDIANS: The largest official ethnic minority numbering 840,000 with 41 per cent born in the UK. About 17 per cent born in East Africa. More than half live in the South-east and its social class is skewed towards the upper echelons of white collar work and semi-skilled manual work.

PAKISTANIS: About 477,000 people mostly living in West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Scotland. Sixty per cent of households are married couples with children. Men work in distribution and catering industries and in self-employment, particular taxi-driving.

BLACK AFRICANS: Youngest and fastest growing community of about 183,000 with more than 60 per cent of family households containing five or more people.

BLACK CARIBBEAN: A population of half a million, 70 per cent of whom live in London and Birmingham. Has matured from a first generation immigrant population to a British-born majority. High levels of mixed black Caribbean and white households and evidence of the emergence of a black British identity.

BLACK AFRICAN: Numbers 212,000 with a third born in Britain. Nearly one fifth from Nigeria with significant numbers also from Uganda, Kenya and South Africa. The most qualified ethnic group with a quarter of the adult population possessing higher qualifications.

BBC commentator dies

VETERAN sports commentator Alan Weeks, best known for his skating and ice hockey reporting, died early yesterday, aged 73. He had worked for the BBC for 45 years, putting his name among the all-time greats of sports commentators. He was the voice for the biggest TV sports audience in Britain when 23 million viewers watched Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean just miss their second gold medal at the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Rare birds 'under attack'

BRITAIN'S rare and protected birds of prey are being poisoned, shot, trapped and are having their nests destroyed and robbed in increasing numbers, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Gamekeepers trying to protect pheasants and grouse so they can later be shot for sport are among the main offenders, but pigeon fanciers have been killing peregrine falcons and sparrow hawks because they are eating their racing birds.

Beans for Russia

HEINZ has launched its world-famous baked beans on the Russian market and predicted yesterday that the country could become one of the top five bean eating countries. But at the equivalent of 50p a can, they will be viewed as a luxury item by most Russians. Heinz believes they are most likely to appeal to Russia's newly-emerging middle class, who view baked beans as "an exotic western delicacy".

Prince faces £1 m tax bill

THE Prince of Wales is likely to face another £1 million income tax bill this year. His 1996 income from the Duchy of Cornwall, whose accounts were published yesterday would therefore total an estimated £3.9 million after tax. In 1995 the prince received £4,898,888 from the Duchy of Cornwall, a 9.7 per cent rise on the previous year. Out of the duchy income, the prince must fund his and the Princess of Wales's office, and all aspects of their public and private lives, and of their children, as they do not receive money from the Civil List. As a crown body, the duchy is tax-exempt. Duchy income passed to the prince is, therefore, also tax-exempt. However, the prince volunteers to pay income tax, which is currently at 40 per cent.

Medium in moors body hunt

THE mother of Moors murder victim Keith Bennett will today take a medium on an anniversary hunt for his body. Winnie Johnson will make the pilgrimage to Saddleworth Moor, near Manchester, in the hope the psychic can discover Keith's grave on what would have been his 44th birthday. Mrs Johnson, aged 62, who has spent 32 years searching for the remains of her 13-year-old son said medium Teresa Walsh had given her fresh hope. The medium, from Moston, Manchester, had made contact after receiving messages from Keith asking her to find him, she said.

Correction

A PHOTOGRAPH on page 3 yesterday was of Sir John Kerr, former Governor-General of Australia, not of Sir John Kerr, present Ambassador to the United States, as stated. We apologise for the error.

Advertising's bad boy tries to dispel fear of Aids by bringing grim reality to art gallery in 'conceptual documentary'

Dan Glaister looks at a living creation

TONY Kaye, the naughty boy of the advertising world, has brought Aids to a London gallery. The centrepiece of Don't Be Scared is three HIV positive young Americans lounging on a black sofa, with samples of their blood in phials on a platform. Beside them a notice reads, "Don't Be Scared by Tony Kaye. Please touch."

Mr Kaye, who gave us the Michelin sado-masochist commercial and the Vauxhall babies advertisement. "I was in a museum looking at all these inaccessible pieces of art in glass cases, and they all had little plaques next to them saying 'Please do not touch' - I thought I'd do a project on that and how a person feels about the loss of physical contact when they are first diagnosed with HIV."



Live art... Tony Kaye's latest offering, featuring three HIV positive young Americans

Mr Kaye advertised for HIV positive models and stood them outside the Museum of Modern Art in New York. From there the show went to a hotel in Los Angeles, before coming to London. Glenn Gaylord, one of the

three models who flew in from Los Angeles for the London show, said he did not feel inhibited about appearing nude in an exhibition. "Being HIV Positive has forced me to confront my fears," he said. "This was just a new challenge."

The three, who are not being paid for their appearances, will take turns sitting on the sofa for the next three weeks, before the show goes to Amsterdam and then Japan. Mr Kaye rejected the charge that this was merely

his latest attempt to publicise himself. "Everyone tries to sell themselves in some sort of way," he said. "I'm taking the energy from myself and trying to put it to some good. Perhaps someone will see this and the next time they make love they'll wear a condom." Mr Gaylord agreed that he was being exploited. "It's totally exploitative for what is hopefully a good end," he said. Tom Lawson of the Aids charity and campaigning group the Terence Higgins Trust welcomed the exhibition. "It's aggressive, in your face, with naked people and blood, and yet it's safe," he said. "If it gets people to confront their phobias about Aids then it is a good thing." The exhibition Don't Be Scared is in St John's Square, near Smithfield, London, until June 29.

Advertisement for Dell XPS P133s computer. Features: Intel 133MHz Pentium Processor, Intel 430VX PCIset, 16Mb High Performance SDRAM, 512Kb Pipeline Burst Cache, 16Gb Hard Drive, 575 Powergraph 64-bit PCI Graphics Card with 2Mb Video Memory, 15" SVGA Monitor (13.75" Viewable Area), 3PCI 2 ISA and 1 PCI/ISA Shared Expansion Slots, Mid-sized Desktop Chassis, Eight-Speed CD-ROM Drive, Integrated 16-bit Sound (Speakers Optional), Microsoft Office Professional 95, Microsoft Windows 95, Dell Mouse and Keyboard. Price: £1,199 (£1,438.20 incl. delivery + VAT). Contact: 01344 724601.

Greek alert after new Aegean row

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE has put its armed forces on alert and said it will strengthen its war machine after accusing Turkey of undermining peace in the Aegean, where the two Nato allies almost exchanged blows in January. The prime minister, Costas Simitis, announced the measures yesterday after a crisis meeting with senior military officials.

provocations will continue," Mr. Simitis said. Abandoning his normally moderate tone, Mr. Simitis said Athens would toughen its stance against Ankara by continuing to block European Union aid and increasing the country's arsenal.

Both, he declared, were aimed at fending off the threat of "systematic Turkish aggression" in the troubled waters.

Tensions between the two feuding neighbours rose sharply last week after Ankara challenged Greece's ownership of Gavdos, an inhabited island south of Crete.

"Turkey systematically undermines stability in the region... Our armed forces are in full readiness. Greece is determined to face these provocations with all means," Mr. Simitis said.

Not since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 have bilateral relations been as fraught.

Analysts in Athens said the latest incident had quickly raised Greek fears that Ankara is poised to cast doubt on the status quo of the entire Aegean sea.

Populated mainly by fishermen, Gavdos lies some 250 miles south-east of the Turkish coast, in sharp contrast to Imia, the barren frontier islet whose disputed status triggered a tense air and naval stand-off between the two countries, five months ago.

Echoing the concern, Nikos Kouris, the deputy defence minister, said: "It is clear that Turkey is not only attempting to undermine the 1933 Lausanne Treaty."

"In effect the hotbeds of Ankara are envisioning a return to the conditions that existed before the first world war [which saw the break-up of the Ottoman empire]."



course for a few minutes inside Greek waters. The Turkish warship then headed back to the Aegean, where a government spokesman, Dimitris Reppas, said.

He said that the incident took place between the islands of Kos and Rhodes, and Athens would protest to Ankara. "Today's incident justifies our view that Turkish

Germany feels Czech hatred

Suspicious about Bonn's plans have reopened old sores, Ian Traynor finds in Prague

1996, up nine points on the previous year. Those against German economic investment outstripped those in favour by 9 per cent.

A Prague student who spent several days driving around the city in a German-registered car said he was shocked by the rudeness and routine hostility he encountered.

"I would never have believed my people were so anti-German, but now I'm seeing it from the inside rather than from the outside and it is quite amazing," he said.

Anecdotal evidence of fear and loathing is all-pervasive on the streets, with abundant stories of how Germans who visit here want to come back and strip the Czechs of their weekend cottages and holiday homes.

The election poster comes courtesy of the extreme right-wing Czech nationalists, the Republicans, whose leader Miroslav Sladek has been peddling lurid allegations about German intentions and calling for the expulsion of more than a hundred thousand romances.

Mr Sladek remains a fringe figure in Czech politics, but in this month's general election he took 8 per cent of the vote and topped his parliamentary presence from 14 to 18 in the 300-seat legislature.

Even if the Czechs are too sober and sensible to reward him further, his anti-German rhetoric still strikes a chord among a people wary and fearful of the Germans.

Hostility seems to be growing. Opinion polls show that in 1995 42 per cent of Czechs thought relations with Germany were bad, contrasting with 22 per cent the year before. Those who thought relations were all right fell from 38 per cent in 1994 to 45 per cent last year.

Germany is the biggest foreign investor in the Czech Republic, with around 28 per cent of the total investment. It also leads the league table of foreign companies forming joint ventures locally, while the last five years have seen an influx of millions of Ger-

man tourists invading the medieval village of old Prague. As a result, fleeing the foreigner, particularly the German, has become the national sport. A taxi ride for a German tourist in the centre of Prague routinely involves an 800 per cent surcharge.

"This is becoming the German economy's backyard," Jan Mladek, a Prague economist, said. Western consultants in the booming Czech capital agree.

A poll surveying attitudes towards German economic influence here found that 48 per cent viewed it as malign in

A taxi ride for a German routinely involves an 800 per cent surcharge

But the tensions go all the way to the top. Even the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, seldom misses an opportunity to have a dig at Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

When Mr Klaus visited Bonn last February, Mr Kohl snubbed him.

He is keen to take the Czech Republic into the European Union, Mr Klaus is the loudest Euro-sceptic in post-communist central Europe.

Last week he told the German magazine Der Spiegel that he could imagine that Mr Kohl was not "particularly happy with my view" after attacking his Euro-federalist vision and denouncing ambitions of a "homo Europaeus".

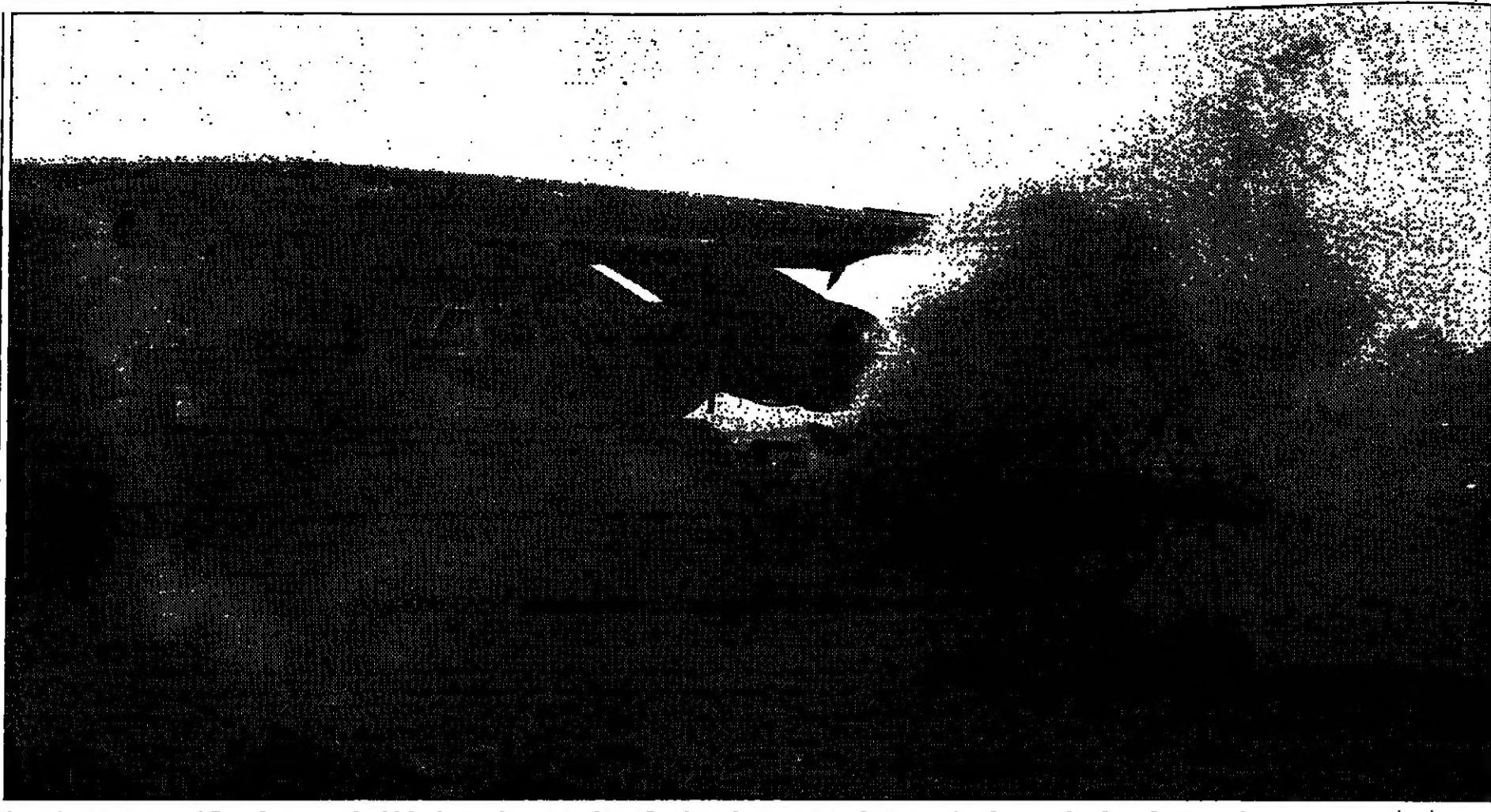
Czech-German rivalries go back to medieval times, to 19th century nationalism and to the second world war when the Nazis occupied and partitioned the country.

The Czechs took their revenge in 1945-46, expelling 3 million Sudeten Germans who had inhabited the region for centuries.

That conflict remains unresolved, which means the Czechs are the only neighbour with whom Germany still has not patched up war differences.

Following Bavarian demands for Czech concessions two weeks ago, which were angrily spurned by Mr Klaus, Prague is buzzing with speculation that Bonn will seek to blackmail the Czechs by hindering their EU negotiations until they fall into line.

For more than a year, the Italians did just that with the Slovenes because of a dispute over the property claims of Italians forced to leave the Istria region at the end of the war.



Sweeping progress... A French armoured vehicle clears mines yesterday at Sarajevo airport, expected to reopen in a few months after a four-year closure. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP LAFAYE

Bosnia sees justice being done

Televised coverage of the Hague tribunal may heal some wounds, writes Julian Borger in Sarajevo

EACH day from 10am to 6pm, the flickering television set in the corner of the Krsliks' living room in Sarajevo has brought the Bosnian Muslim family some sort of justice, but little comfort.

The state-run national television channel banned its normal programming a month ago in favour of a live, daily, eight-hour feed from the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

For many elderly and unemployed, the painstaking unravelling of the war and its atrocities has become compulsive viewing.

The murmur of bewigged lawyers and their Bosnian interpreters provides a constant backdrop to the Krsliks' daily routine. Occasionally, Sabiha Krsliak, a pensioner aged 64, sits by the screen to follow the cross-examination of a witness. But when her son, Ha-

sib, enters the room she quickly changes channel or switches the set off.

Hasib cannot stand the sight of the pristine Hague courtroom. In July 1993, when he was aged 20, he was captured by the Bosnian Serbs and spent the next 18 months in a series of prison camps in eastern Bosnia, where he was beaten and tortured with live electric cables.

Even in the unlikely event that the 98 war crimes suspects indicted by the Hague Tribunal were all arrested and sent to jail, it would not be enough for Hasib.

"It only annoys me, because I know what happened and I know these people won't be punished as they deserve," he said. "Even death isn't enough. Nobody can do to them what they did to me."

Hasib's parents are wary and respectful of his simmering anger, but a shade more optimistic about the tribunal.

Sabiha believes "something might be achieved". The contrast between the Hague's hushed, sterilised chamber and the Krsliks' scruffy, half-gutted block of flats in New Sarajevo reassures her that a professional job is being done.

The last witness she saw questioned was Ed Vulliamy, a Guardian journalist who de-

scribed his 1993 visit to the Omarska prison camp where a Bosnian Serb reserve police officer, Dusko Tadic (the first suspect to stand trial), is accused of torturing and killing inmates.

"I think what this journalist did did do some good. It will remind people what happened there," Sabiha said.

Internews, the United States-based media organisation which has arranged the broadcasts, is convinced justice has to be seen to be done if Bosnia's ethnic divides are ever to heal.

Amir Ibrovic, the Internews Sarajevo office manager, cites an opinion poll on federation territory. Of those questioned, 82 per cent said reconciliation would be possible if war criminals were brought to justice. Only 26 per cent thought it possible without a judicial process.

aras to protect the witnesses. The project has enough funds from donors, including the Hungarian-born financier George Soros, to keep broadcasting until the end of July.

After that, Internews hopes the Dutch government will keep the project going until the end of the Tadic trial — expected in October — and allow it to cover special hearings on the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. They are due to start on June 27 and are expected to lead to the issuing of international arrest warrants.

The Internews team in The Hague produces a two-hour summary of each day's testimony, with English-language and Bosnian soundtracks on different channels, broadcast each night by an independent Sarajevo station, TVX.

The English version is aimed at the Nato soldiers and diplomats who have flooded into Bosnia to implement the Dayton accord.

"It's foreigners who are going to make the important decisions, like whether the war

criminals are going to be arrested," Maria Blacque Bellair, the project director, said. She hopes to help "sensitise" the international community to the scale of the crimes, and maintain pressure on Nato to track down the 52 suspects still at large.

The Internews team is also fairly certain its broadcasts have a third audience. "We have heard from good sources that Karadzic and the rest of the Bosnian Serb leaders are watching," Mr Ibrovic said. "I think it's bringing them the reality of what they did and what they should expect."

● Bosnia's mainly-Muslim government will extradite two indicted war criminals to the Hague tribunal, a Sarajevo newspaper reported yesterday. "The decision to extradite (Hasim) Delic and (Esad) Landzo was made by the Bosnian supreme court," the federal deputy justice minister, Dzemal Husic, was quoted as saying.

The men, in jail in Sarajevo, are accused of crimes in a concentration camp in southern Bosnia.

'We hear Karadzic and other leaders are watching; it brings home what they did'

US hints that Nato forces could remain after deadline

Reuter in Washington

PEACEKEEPING troops may be asked to stay on in Bosnia after the Nato-led implementation force completes its one-year mandate there, a senior United States official said yesterday.

Assistant secretary of state John Kornblum, the US administration's chief coordinator for Bosnia policy, said it was "possible, maybe even likely, that there will be other missions" in Bosnia when the

mandate ends in December. But he said it was too early to speculate on what the missions might be, or whether troops or civilians would be asked to carry them out.

Mr Kornblum dismissed as "just speculation or private views" not necessarily an official position a Washington Post report that a consensus was growing among senior Nato officials that a substantial Nato follow-on force would be likely to patrol the former Yugoslavia well into 1997.

Swedes prepare to stay nuclear

Jon Henley in Helsinki

SWEDEN is getting ready to break its grandest environmental promise — an historic commitment to be rid of nuclear power by 2010 — as its lofty green ambitions collide with economic reality.

"I don't think that date is holy any more," said Hans Hedén, a senior civil servant at the energy ministry. "It hurts them to say it, but most parties see that it's impossible. Now they need to find a politically acceptable compromise."

Swedes voted overwhelmingly in favour of phasing out their nuclear industry in a landmark referendum held after the 1979 radiation scare at Three Mile Island in the United States. But the 12 reactors provide nearly half the country's electricity.

Fears were compounded by the Chernobyl disaster of 1986, when radioactive clouds inflicted long-term damage on Sweden's lakes and forests. Some 200,000 people in a recent poll said worries about the fallout still affected their lifestyle and diet.

"People are very concerned about our reactors," said Marianne Samuelson of the opposition Green party. "Many think the deadline is important, and we believe it's a pledge that has to be adhered to. It's perfectly feasible."

But the minority Social Democrat government, while in principle committed to the deadline, faces almost insurmountable obstacles to a full phase-out by 2010.

Despite opposition from environmentalists, the prime minister, Goran Persson, last week began talks with political leaders aimed at finding cross-party support for postponing or staggering the operation — and preventing it becoming an election issue next year.

The astronomical cost of meeting a pledge made in the prosperous 1980s has frightened a government committed to slashing spending by £20 billion over the next few years.

A parliamentary commission put the lowest basic cost of nuclear decommissioning at about £9 billion, and double that if non-fossil fuels are the alternative.

Compensation may also have to be paid to power plant owners, and no economist has yet quantified the knock-on effects of higher power bills on Sweden's core forestry, iron and chemical industries.

Ironically, Sweden's green credentials are also at risk from an early run-down of nuclear power. A switch to natural gas — the most obvious and technically viable alternative — would raise harmful emissions above the strict levels it has pledged to maintain.

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Angola soldier

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Angola faces chaos as soldiers return to soil

Ill-funded mass demobilisation is a disaster in the making, writes Victoria Brittain in Luanda

SEVENTY thousand men are due to be demobilised in Angola in the coming weeks, threatening to destabilise further this tense and divided country. Banditry is already rife in three key areas, according to the senior United Nations military official in the country, while in the capital, Luanda, car theft and mugging are endemic.

Half of the men to be demobilised are from the government army (the FAA), and the other half from the Unita opposition movement. Many of the latter are not soldiers, UN officials report, but men and boys caught up in the Unita kidnapping sweeps through towns and villages that are still going on.

Very different solutions to the problems of demobilisation are being put forward by the FAA, Unita, the Angolan government and the international community. But a decision has to be made fast.

The formation of the new army is being pushed forward at speed by the FAA. Demobilisation must follow immediately, as the UN's responsibility ends for feeding the former soldiers in quartering areas (QAs).

Demobilisation in 1992, before the elections, was chaotic, with daily riots in QAs, hostage-taking of international staff and wholesale theft of food and equipment.

The government, the former army (Fapla) and the international community were overwhelmed and discredited by the failure.

No one, other than Unita, wants to repeat it, but indecision is setting the scene for something equally disastrous, according to senior officials.

The FAA proposed an ambitious and expensive plan, costing an estimated \$800 million (\$523 million), to place the 70,000 men in a fourth branch of the army.

"The fundamental idea was to keep them under military discipline until they were reintegrated into society," said General Joao Matos, the FAA's chief of staff.

For between two and four years, they would work on national rehabilitation, build a house for themselves on their own land, and grow crops which the FAA would initially guarantee to buy.

"We need to control them until they are really civilians, not become bandit groups," Gen Matos said.

The fourth branch is the only real means of getting people back to the land and starting food production. But

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according to the former minister of planning, Pedro de Moraes, the country lacks the resources for so ambitious a scheme.

"We lack the funds, but also the human resources to organise it — this lack of capacity is Angola's critical problem," Mr De Moraes said.

The alternative UN plan, at one-tenth of the cost, would release the men individually from the QAs, transport them to where they want to live, and supply them with a kit of tools and seeds and some money for the first six months.

National rehabilitation projects drawn up by the government and the UN Development Programme would give them work.

"Personally, I think a soldier is not a farm worker; two weeks out of the army, he's a potential bandit"

Unita opposes the fourth branch. Its leader, Jonas Savimbi, has told western diplomats that it is a question of the dignity of his soldiers. In a recent interview to the French newspaper *Le Figaro*, in his stronghold of Andulo, he hinted that he had his own plans to support his men in their new lives.

With Unita's diamond and coffee riches, Mr Savimbi could afford a political gesture for his own men which would both embarrass and destabilise the FAA and the government in their underfunded efforts, while reinforcing Unita's prestige and control in its own areas.

The record in the region is not encouraging. General Philip Sibanda, the UN commander in Angola, said: "From our experience, demobilising from the QAs is not a good idea — it almost created a disaster for us in Zimbabwe. They need an organisation to look after them for several years."

The Mozambican president, Joaquim Chissano, last month gave Gen Matos a similar warning after months of civil disorder during demobilisation there.

But donors insist the fourth branch is too expensive and would give too much power to the military. They insist that it should be voluntary, and should be run under the auspices of the ministry of social welfare.

Yet the ministry, like the rest of the civilian administration, is on its knees. Salaries with no value have driven qualified people out of the civil service. Those who remain are handicapped by a lack of resources.

The homeless young, the old, the limbless, the mentally ill, have visibly fallen through whatever safety nets remain. There is no organisational capacity for the huge task of demobilisation and the reintegration of soldiers into civilian life.

Handwritten note: '150/150'



Wanting a hand... Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader and former prime minister, Khaleda Zia, greets supporters in Dhaka before elections today. She resigned on March 30, after two years of opposition strikes, but is standing again. President Abdur Rahman Biswas has dismissed claims he might manipulate results to favour her. PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MOORE

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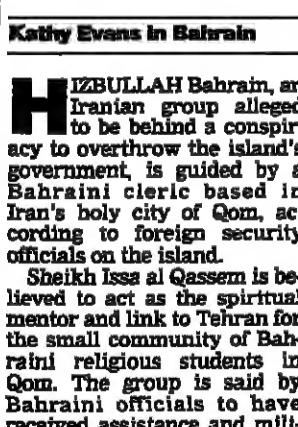
Court hears last words of Selassie



Alice Martin reports from Addis Ababa on the war crimes trial of Colonel Mengistu (above) and former Ethiopian leaders

DRAMATIC new details about the mysterious death of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1975 emerged yesterday during a war crimes trial in Ethiopia. The trial, which is considering evidence of alleged atrocities committed during the country's communist period from 1974 to 1991, was told that Selassie, who ruled Ethiopia for more than 50 years, was driven from his palace on September 12, 1974, in a Volkswagen Beetle — never to be seen in public again. The first public account of the emperor's death came from two of the attendants who stayed with him in custody. They were brought in to see his dead body on the morning of August 26 1975. "There was a smell of ether in the air," one of the witnesses said. "And his majesty was not lying in his usual position. He only had one pillow. The shawl that he wrapped himself in when he went to sleep was lying in another part of the room. His face was ghastly and there was a bandage around his neck." The witness described how he had been with the emperor until 8pm the previous evening, when soldiers came to take him away. "His majesty came from his bed and when he saw what was happening tears came to his eyes and he cried out: 'Is it not true Ethiopia that I have strived for you?' He fell on his knees and prayed. Later I realised that these were his last words to me." A third witness described how Colonel Haile Mariam Mengistu, who had assumed leadership of the country's new 120 member military council, the Dergue, ordered a number of graves to be dug in the grounds of the Grand Palace where the military had its headquarters. The emperor, he said, was buried under Col Mengistu's office window. "I was worried he would kill me," the gravedigger told the court, "but he lit a cigarette for me and told me to fence the area. I did it in 15 minutes while he watched from the window. Then he ordered me to construct a building on the site. I did it in two weeks." The discovery of thousands of bones in similar graves has given Ethiopia's special prosecutor's office ample evidence to bring charges against the Dergue, but these are the first eyewitness accounts incriminating the council's surviving members. A total of 46 Dergue members are in the dock, with some — including Col Mengistu, who fled to Zimbabwe in 1981 — being tried in their absence.

Bahrain plot 'is led from Qom'



Kathy Evans in Bahrain

HIZBULLAH Bahrain, an Iranian group alleged to be behind a conspiracy to overthrow the island's government, is guided by a Bahraini cleric based in Iran's holy city of Qom, according to foreign security officials on the island. Sheikh Issa al Qassem is believed to act as the spiritual mentor and link to Tehran for the small community of Bahraini religious students in Qom. The group is said by Bahraini officials to have received assistance and military training by Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Bahraini Shia who wanted to become clerics formerly studied in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. But the Iran-Iraq war and the sanctions which followed the invasion of Kuwait forced many to travel to Qom instead. Today, Shia religious authorities say that about 250 Bahrainis study in Qom under the guidance of senior ayatollahs including Sheikh Issa al Qassem. These students form the core of the leadership of Hizbullah Bahrain, say informed sources. Members of Shia religious circles in Bahrain said yesterday that the Qom-based students were now banned from returning home. However, Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak, denied this. "Those who have not been part of activities against the government are free to return, but those who have will face investigation," he said. Sources add, however, that the Qom-based plot is only part of a labyrinth of networks leading back to Iran. Officials also point to the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, which has offices in Tehran and Damascus. Bahrain's recent allegation of a conspiracy against its government followed the round-up of 56 Islamic militants in Bahrain in recent months. Of them, six confessed on television to receiving money and military training in Iran and Lebanon. "Most of this problem is local and it is not likely to touch the opposition's core demand for democracy," said one senior foreign official.

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Selective statistics

Few believe the good times are really here

IS THE "feel-bad factor" based on a myth? William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, clearly thinks so. In a pre-electoral salvo yesterday, he made an impassioned defence against Labour claims that the recovery had only generated poor quality, insecure jobs at low wages. He argued that more than half of the jobs created during the last upturn had been at above average earnings and that 21 per cent were in professions with average hourly earnings 1.7 times above the average. Far from being mainly part-time or temporary, he said, 60 per cent of new UK jobs since autumn 1993 had been permanent and 53 per cent full-time.

The first of these claims is hardly surprising. The big worry about the economy in the UK is the long-run collapse of unskilled jobs tied to simultaneous worries that we are inadequately equipping our workers for the new skilled jobs associated with the information technology revolution. The immediate problem is not that the digital revolution isn't throwing up new jobs for those with the appropriate skills but that the prospects for the less skilled — particularly the 10.6 per cent of unemployed males — is still dismal.

Mr Waldegrave's second claim — that 53 per cent of new jobs since autumn 1993 have been full-time — sits uneasily with the statistics in the Government's own Labour Market Trends. These show that since September 1993 the entire 300,000 increase in employment was caused by a rise in part-time employment. But, let's not quibble about statistics. Even if Mr Waldegrave's figures are correct they are only part of the story. According to research done by the Employment Institute, three quarters of all full-time jobs created since the current recovery started have involved temporary contracts. Such contracts suit the lifestyle of some, but for many they are one of the main

sources of insecurity leading to an inability to get a 25-year mortgage.

Mr Waldegrave is correct to say that the amount of time someone stays in a job has changed little since the 1970s. This is one of a number of myths about the labour market. Others are that there has been a recent explosion of part-time working. There hasn't. The trend can be traced back a long time and was actually stronger three decades ago than it is now. Most people working part-time do so because they want to not because they are forced to. Nor is "downsizing" a new cult (the coal industry which now employs 20,000 people used to have over a million on its books). Not even Japan has lifetime employment. Contrary to mythology fewer than 10 per cent of Japanese workers end up in the same company they started with.

The Government's micro-economic reforms to the labour market — like making it easier to hire and fire employees — have undoubtedly contributed to job insecurity, but not as much as macro-economic policy. The two unnecessarily sharp recessions at the start and end of the 1980s needlessly threw hundreds of thousands out of work, including middle-managers. They sent shock waves through the rest of the population, who suddenly fell insecure even if they had longstanding jobs. Those still without a job remain depressed while those forced to "down-trade" to new jobs deemed inferior are also unhappy. The recent period of stable economic policy, aided by the involuntary restoration of the pound's lost competitiveness, has helped to generate more jobs in Britain than in most of the rest of Europe. That's good. But memories of the two recent recessions are too strong to persuade employees that the good times are here to stay. It will need more than Mr Waldegrave's selective use of statistics to do that.

Cash and carry politics

Who rules the Conservatives — Major or Goldsmith?

RUSSIA, said Talleyrand, is always too strong and too weak at the same time. The same could be said about the Conservative Europhobes, who have proved once again that they are too strong to be defeated but too weak to be victorious. The result, as the Commons vote on Bill Cash's Referendum Bill showed yesterday, is that the Conservative Party is permanently conditioned to division. If Labour had sat down and designed an excruciating death by torture for the Government, it would be hard put to better this self-inflicted Tory agony over Europe.

It is difficult to believe that this is a party which trails somewhere between 20 and 30 points in the polls and is only months away from a general election. In such circumstances, mere self-preservation would normally demand that any party — especially one which used to be dubbed the most successful European political party of the 20th century — would have avoided such public auto-humiliations. Yet that impulse seems to have been thrown overboard by John Major's party. Once again, about a third of Conservative backbenchers have defied all electoral self-interest and voted expressly against the Government. Yesterday 74 Tories supported Mr Cash. Two months ago, 66 voted for Iain Duncan Smith's similar effort on the European Court of Justice. A year ago, 89 voted for John Redwood against Mr Major. It is academic to try to show whether the rebel numbers are on the rise or the slide. The point is that

one in three Tory MPs is impervious to party discipline, so incorrigible is their hostility to the party leader and his policy over Europe.

Moving his bill yesterday, Mr Cash said that the question at issue was who governs Britain and how. Theoretically perhaps, but since the bill stands absolutely no chance of making political progress, the real question is not who governs Britain but who governs the Conservative Party. Any party which seriously seeks electoral victory would not allow itself to parade its divisions in this way. But the Conservative Party is in the grip of both a panic and a delusion. The panic makes many of its MPs try to make terms with the predatory figure of Sir James Goldsmith. The delusion makes those MPs imagine that an ever more hostile attitude to the European Union provides the way to electoral salvation.

Mr Major said at Question Time yesterday that Sir James is not going to change the Government's policy. That is demonstrably untrue. Mr Major runs before the wind. He has not only shifted to suit the Europhobes; he has also committed himself to a referendum on monetary union, partly in an attempt to spike Sir James's guns. But Sir James is the kind of man who sees a concession as a sign of weakness. He is out for more, and the Europhobes are his willing lieutenants. Who runs the Conservative Party — the elected John Major or the unelected Sir James Goldsmith? It is increasingly hard to tell.

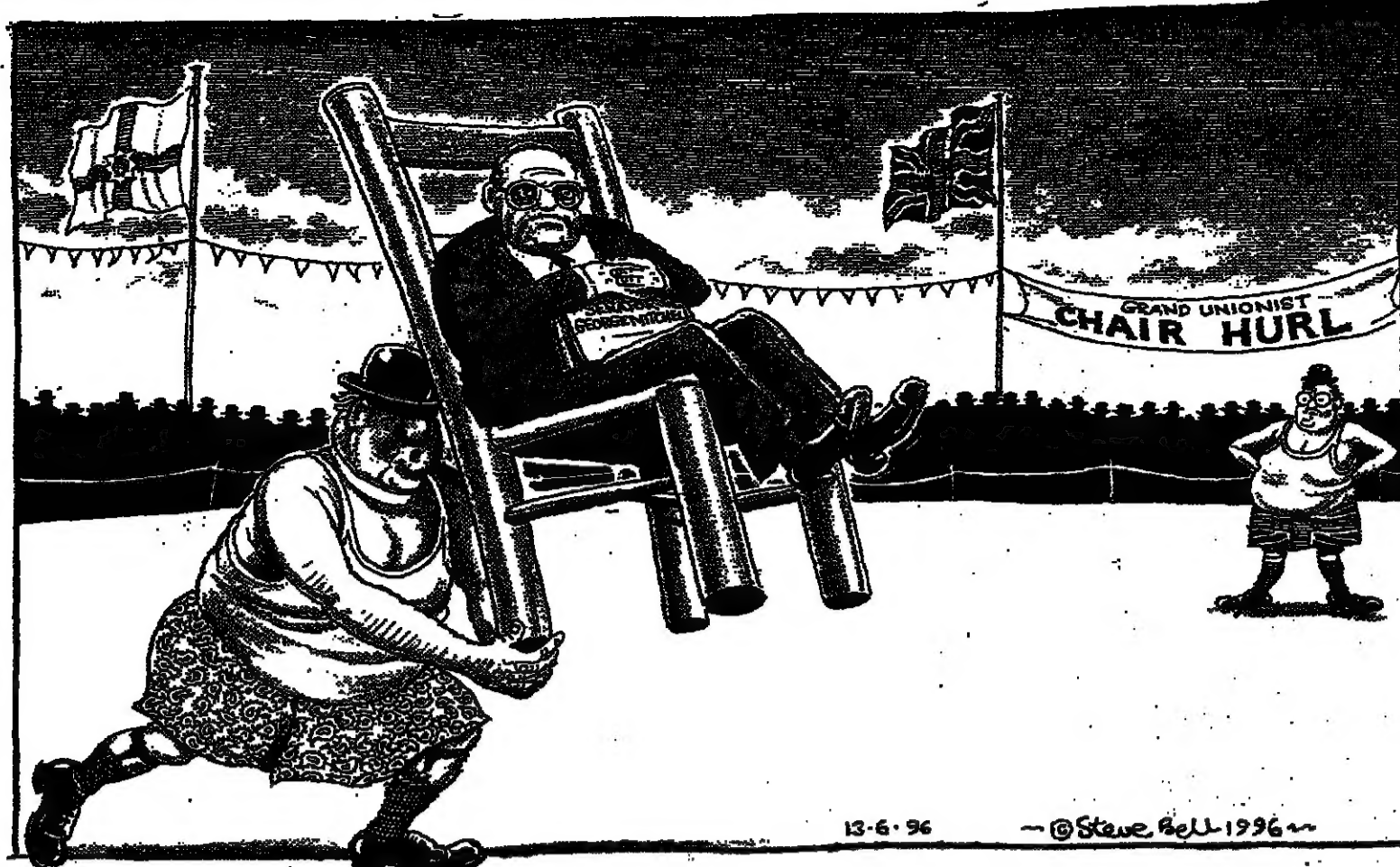
The public has a right to know

A full inquiry into the scandal of child abuse is needed

FIRST we stole their childhood. Now, it seems, we are denying them public redress. The second scandal is almost as big as the first. In the first, hundreds of children believed to be "at risk" were removed from their parents only to be abused — sexually, physically and mentally — by adults in residential homes in which they were placed. Now reports into such abuse will be withheld unless ministers intervene. An inquiry into Clwyd's residential homes — where 100 children, of whom 12 subsequently died, were sexually abused over 20 years — was withheld earlier this year because of legal advice and an insurance company. Lawyers warned about the ammunition which the report would provide for victims claiming compensation; the insurance company threatened to withdraw its cover. To its shame, the county council complied. Only a leak to the Independent exposed the catalogue of complaints which the

council had ignored. Now, as we report in G2, a new series of prosecutions has begun in Cheshire — allegedly involving three times the number of children as Clwyd — in which six care workers have already been imprisoned with nine more trials due to begin.

Ministers met yesterday to discuss the issue. They will have been told the abuse happened a long time ago, which is true. Most of the cases involve the 1970s or early 1980s. They will have been told residential care has changed, which is also true. The emphasis is now on fostering. They will have been told of new residential management and training initiatives introduced by a succession of reports — Warner, Howe, the Beck inquiry. But the public — and the victims — have a right to know the facts. We need a public inquiry, which will ignore insurers and lawyers, and set out the full national picture. Nothing less will do.



Letters to the Editor

Paedophiles in power

JON SNOW'S column about child abuse (True scandal of the child abusers, June 6) raises the accountability of the press and the behaviour of rich, influential and powerful men able to call upon others in positions of authority to protect them — or, in the case of the Church, provide "sanctuary".

Those working in the field who make mistakes resulting in the demise of children, or cause them to suffer at the hands of abusers, need to be publicly criticised. As a profession, we must not be overly defensive when taken to task. I was a member of the inquiry panel which looked into the circumstances surrounding the untimely death of Jasmine Beckford. In such a case, public criticism of individual professionals was, in my view, justifiable.

But in these, as well as more recent cases such as Orkney and Cleveland, we have seen an increasingly disturbing tendency to criticise not only the individual, but also the whole of the social work profession, along with the entire practice of child protection.

Jon Snow, by putting the emphasis on people in high places, is confirming what many of us in the field know and has been confirmed in, for example, Kinross: that paedophiles are able to walk away

from justice because of their power and influence. Why is the press unwilling to tell what it knows about successful people in politics and business? And how does it justify dealing with child abuse as a series of separate disasters caused by blundering, low-paid social workers?

Ben Brown, Social care consultant, 2 Connaught Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1QT.

Until Caldecott College opened in 1983 there were no nationally-recognised courses for staff who specialised in the care of children with mental health problems. Local authorities simply do not have

the money. Therefore the Baroness Faithfull Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to provide social workers with the specialist training needed if Jon Snow's agenda is to be addressed.

Andrew Hardwick, Principal, Caldecott College, The Paddock, Smeth. Ashford, Kent TN26 6SP.

WE ARE solicitors co-ordinating the claims of some 53 complainants of child abuse whilst in care in the North-west, and we read Jon Snow's column with considerable interest. The complaints date from 1985 through to 1994, and involve four children's homes in Cheshire and Merseyside. To this extent, there is some similarity with the North Wales cases.

However, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is currently refusing to call a public inquiry into what is believed to be the largest paedophile ring in Britain. It is our belief that a public inquiry would be the quickest way to flesh out the evidence and, from the victims' point of view, would be the best way to treat these extremely sensitive matters.

Peter W A Gardsen, Abney Gardens McDonald, 62 Stockport Road, Cheshire SK3 2AJ.

Why the bill is divorced from the reality of family breakdown

THE first clause of the Famous Law Bill states a fundamental principle that a marriage which has irretrievably broken down should be brought to an end with minimum distress to the parties and the children.

But the bill as now amended provides that, in the course of the divorce process, the parties must wait for significant periods of time between one stage and another. Where there are children under 16, they will amount to a total of 24 months. That is a very long time in the life of a young child.

In most cases, the adult decision to divorce will have been preceded by unhappiness in the home, of which the children will have been only too well aware. It is asking a great deal of them if, after that, they have to wait for almost two years before they can get started on their new lives. It is bound to be a stressful time, which can only be detrimental to their welfare.

Of course the parties must have proper time to think through the consequences of a divorce or to save their marriage wherever possible. But this must be balanced against the interests of the children, for many of whom a year is as much as they can visualise.

The amendments to the bill, extending the divorce process so much from the original proposed period of about 12 months, are based only upon an adult timescale; they ignore that of the children. If Parliament is to ensure that the first principle is upheld and that children suffer only the minimum distress, those amendments and the timescale they have produced, must be reconsidered and revised.

Dame Margaret Booth, Former High Court Judge, Sarah Bowler, Chief Executive, Relate, Christopher Clow, Director, Tavistock Marital Studies Institute, Thelma Fisher, Director, National Family Mediation, Philip Graham, Chairperson, National Children's Bureau, J Harding, Chief Executive, NSPCC, Valerie Howarth, Executive Director, ChildLine, Elizabeth Lawson, Chairman, Family Law Bar Association, Penny Mansfield, Director, One Plus One, Claire Rayner, President, Gingerbread, Tom White, Chief Executive, NCH Action for Children, And 80 others, c/o 15 Wellington House, Eton Road, London NW3 4SY.

In God's name

MORI, when commissioned by the British European Association, comes up with a figure of 43 per cent of the population who say they believe in God (Mark Lawson, June 10); yet, when commissioned by the Church of England, it comes up with 88 per cent as they reported last month. This strongly suggests that Gallup — who were not commissioned by anyone — has probably got the figure right with 61 per cent.

Of rather more interest is the fact that the majority of those "believers" do not believe in the traditional personal creator God of Christianity, but in an "impersonal life-force". Hence they are deists not theists. When one adds to this the fact that all the specific Christian beliefs are now held by no more than one-fifth of the population, it is clear that this is no longer a Christian country. (Dr Colin Campbell, Department of Sociology, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD.

YOUR Diary (June 5) implies that Wembley Central station may change its name. We are looking to finance improvements at our stations, and one way of raising this is through a third party. Naturally any company prepared to invest in such improvements will want something in return in the form of advertising. Newspapers thrive on it. This does not mean that the name of a station would be changed, only that the benefits accruing to the customer would be acknowledged as having been provided by the party responsible.

Bryan Leaker, Commercial director, North London Railways, 65-67 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1DP.

WHAT does Luxembourg's fisheries minister do all day, and what level of cuts are being proposed to his fleet? William Barrett, 6 Burns Road, London NW10 4DY.



This is your inner self calling

WHAT is it with the Guardian and the men's movement? Rose Coward's article (A man's gotta work on his inner self, June 10) is just the latest in a long line of slights to find a place in your pages on the mostly honourable attempts by men, initially alone, but sometimes now together with women, to create some sense of worth and meaning in the wasteland that masquerades as society.

Through re-connection with myth and story — amongst other avenues — the mythopoetic "wing" of the men's

movement has struggled to confront and heal racial and ethnic divides, father and son conflicts, social and personal crises, and is now tentatively trying to establish a dialogue with women. That you find space to accuse those involved of "inverse racism", yet again to attack the courageous figure of Robert Bly, and to reduce those women who have bravely held out their hands, does you no service.

Stephen Hopkins, Monnow House, Clodock, Longtown, Herefordshire HR2 0PD.

John Birt and the Burma factor

JOHN Yusa, my last boss as Ja senior producer and reporter in the World Service Science Unit, exposed the idiocy of present BBC management (A mission to destroy, June 10). What he didn't do was make clear the financial and editorial tangle of it.

The reasons why WS in English makes its own programmes are two-fold. First comes suitability for the region. In many fields there is a need to remember how different this little island is compared with the rest of the world. A single bite by a rabid animal makes national news for days here; abroad it is nothing. I have heard Radio 4 refer to the military dictatorship in Burma as the "government" and the democratically elected, but suppressed, government as the "opposition". Do that on WS and your audience is gone.

In addition, programme costs in Bush House are a small fraction of those for domestic radio. For instance, WS's flagship science programme Science in Action had a weekly budget for contributors and travel costs of about £300 when I retired. The comparable figure for Radio 4's Science Now was probably at least twice as much.

Furthermore, the source material for WS programmes also served, at minimal conversion cost, for adaptation in the foreign-language services, just as centralised reporting and script for them doubled as source for WS in English. I cannot see WS being able to meet production costs more aligned to domestic radio. Why not just switch off World Service now? Dick Oliver, 19 St John's Green, Colchester, Essex CO2 7EZ.

Over now to the sports round-up

THE selfish stance of the bosses of English rugby (Sky deal divides Twickenham, June 11) shows how little regard they have for their wider public and the game itself, and demonstrates how far they have been stampeded by the panic of professionalism.

It would seem obvious that if more interested in rugby is to have any chance of meeting the standards set by New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, all the home nations need the resources to produce worthwhile competition for the others.

The inactivity of one-off matches in the southern hemisphere has already been demonstrated by the England soccer squad's Far East debacle. John Cameron, 35 Ragged Hall Lane, St Albans, Herts AL2 3LB.

IN 1991, the Rugby Football Union advertised the World Cup to bring the game to the attention of the masses. The Sky deal has alienated all those interested who have not got a dish. The RFU is supposed to act in the interest of all those it represents. At no time have I been asked

whether or not I would like to watch English rugby on satellite. I'm not lining the pockets of an Australian just to watch England play. Rich Scott, 2 Church Close, Yatton, North Somerset BS19 4HG.

AIN Randall (Letters, June 11) is right about the greed of the organisers of Euro 96 leading to huge areas of empty seating. The day could still be saved if the FA announced that unsold tickets could be bought at the turnstile for a nominal fee, say a fiver, to anyone over 60 or still at school. That way more fans could join in the fun, the world might be reassured that the English care about the game and the FA could make a handsome donation to the Hillsborough victims' fund.

John Cameron, 122 Hardy Mill Road, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3PJ.

WEMBLEY, Euro 96. The biggest sporting event on this island for 30 years. And the queen attends Epsom. Steve Williams, 110 Hazelville Road, London N19 3NA.

A Country Diary

CHILTERN'S: I'd set up my desk in a shade corner of the garden to escape the heat, only to be buffeted by another (though wholly agreeable) sensory assault. Quite distinct against the background scents of waning lilac and waxing philadelphus, the warm melon of the laburnum blossom was washing over me in pulses, almost every 40 seconds. I've come across this phenomenon before. Some two and a half minutes on the day the current heat-wave began, I was sharing a picnic in a broom-brush that was on a five-minute scent-cycle. We're these all old factory situations? Do other species share the curious fleetingness of their perfume, or is it a chemical called ionine, can temporarily numb our smell-buds? Or is "pulsing" a kind of budgeting, a plant's strategy for making more frugal use of scent chemicals? I suspect

this may be one of the many conundrums of smell. One other that taxes me is why flower scents are basically so similar and so nice. It is hard to think of a truly nauseous example — which is odd when you consider that they are there as trademarks to attract pollinating insects. This month we have the coconut oil tropical fruit of the pea family, merging on one side with sweetness of wild roses, and, on the other, with the sultry, sexy aroma of the sultry, sexy aroma of the may. May blossom's fishy, cloying undertones (probably the reason it is regarded as bringer of bad luck indoors) are more pronounced in rowan, whose scent is, for me, the closest to unpleasant amongst our native plants. One struggles to find words for these subtle gradations — which is quite proper, since communication by smell is more deeply and anciently encoded in our brains than any form of language.

RICHARD MABBY

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Diary Dan Atkinson

BARELY suppressed excitement and joy ripples through the West Country this week as the natives prepare to celebrate a notable anniversary: local MP Tom King's 25 years in Parliament. The impressively charismatic former Northern Ireland Secretary has decided to celebrate with a typically stylish party — the thing arranged to fit the packed engagement diary of his erstwhile boss, Lady Thatcher. Mr King's party machine in Bridgwater, Somerset, is keeping mum about the precise date and time of the knees-up. Quite what Lady T will make of the venture — the Exiles' Somerset holiday camp in Minehead — is uncertain; but who can doubt that the guests will have a wild old time as they toast Tom's health in the midst of 400 wesser Tories, 9,000 holidaymakers, a lively disco and a bingo hall?

DON'T be too surprised if we stitch up a deal with Madrid over the Gibraltar smuggling row during the next few weeks. It will be due in no small part to our backing up of Spain's frenetic denials of any contamination by British cattle, particularly the sort with learning difficulties. On Monday, MAFF minister Angela Browning told Parliament there are no bovine exports from the UK to Spain in either 1994 or 1995. One month earlier, the Spanish Embassy had slyly claimed that, while 1995 data were not yet available, "during 1994 Spain did not import from the UK a single live animal of the bovine type. How curious then that, on the 4, MAFF's animal-ware division admitted that 401 calves were exported to Spain for fattening in 1994 and a further 301 in 1995.

IT'S Kinda Sad (Eating North ME Harp) — Greenway has been the another plus-point of Tory rule in his Hemingway-esque column for local Gazette newspaper. Friday's epistle to Queen of the Suburbs members through some fine figures about central programs despised annually by the Queen are nothing. "The number of people living to be 100 increased enormously under the present Conservative government, indicating that life really is much better and longer under Conservative rule." Do we really believe that the above was delivered without trace of irony? We don't think so.

JOHN RT's new-look Minley-of-Truth style PC may bring some advantages with its promise to do a production activities. At least we would not be spared last week's wile-in on the Radio 4 consumer show You and You during which assorted poms bitched about length of time British hems-goers have to wait for a Brody Tank will let you see such masterpieces as Kids. In the new one-Bigworld, Y'n'Y would doubt have cannibal programme, have been informed by its fellows in BBC Films that Corp's much-praised big-screen adaptation Stella Gibbons's Cold Comfort Farm, directed by Jon Sunday, Bloody Sunday-chasing, received its junior this year not in Malt Harbour or ever-celebrated Square, but in United States.

Kinda Sad (2): Our Portuguese friends, it seems, are unimpressed with British beef bawls with Yorkshire ver. The Lusitanian sad for Euro 96 is a curly encounter in Hellaby II, near Rotherham, which was parked yesterday a giant refrigerated fry. Inside, we understand, were supplies of water, dairy products, eat, fish and coffee to sustain the players during their sojourn in the Third World.

WILL no word from Michael "I'm No Beatnik" Howard's non-denial on Monday concerning his inhalation of otherwise controlled substances during his crazy, skiffle-playing 60s youth. Too busy, no doubt, rehearsing Wabash Cannonball, but it would be nice to hear from him.

Private parts of public lives

Commentary Catherine Bennett

Be a fly on the wall and read this, urges the model Paula Hamilton in her new survey 'tell autobiography, Instructions Not Included. People, friends, families, led ones, partners, have all seen you. Why do you want others to know parts of your life? You're yours, private and precious." On the contrary. They are ours, public and for sale, price £15.99. "I feel I have the ability and guts to share my experience," Paula — I think we can call her Paula — writes. "To share my truth is a privilege; do with it as you will."

As lives go, Paula Hamilton's is probably not one which most people would want to emulate. Apart from a brief moment of public glory, in a well-received Volks-wagen commercial, it consists almost exclusively of experiences which would once have been considered mortifyingly

personal and embarrassing, drink and drug addiction, ugly family squabbles, fumbled relationships, and long periods in recovery centres. The rationale, of course, is that Hamilton's tale has a cautionary value, helping readers to avoid her mistakes. In reality, as even Hamilton probably knows, her audience simply gawps, shudders and forgets. It is familiar now for supporters of a privacy law to deplore the trade in such domestic sorrows. In this newspaper, the new Lord Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Bingham, recently suggested that our nation of nosy parkers needed to be saved from itself. He noted the value of "educative" legislation, which "plays a part in educating the public to recognise what is and is not acceptable conduct in a modern society". If such legislation is not forthcoming, he delicately warned, "I do not think the courts will be found wanting".

It remains unclear, however, how far the general public shares Sir Thomas's distaste for nosiness, and wishes to be "educated" by a judiciary which has, in the past, provided such peerless entertainment. It is true, beyond peradventure, as our educators might say, that the tabloids' obsession with personal

lives is usually pointless, sometimes painfully invasive, and almost invariably vulgar. But anyone who regularly reads the tabloids can only be struck by the number of invasions which have been actively courted. From Mary Ellen Smyon, grimly seeking vengeance, to the teenage daughter of a Labour MP, flogging her "sex romp" with a footballer, many of the most cringe-making tales have been offered voluntarily, by ordinary people of the kind a privacy law is supposed to protect. Last week, for example, the Sun discovered a new variety of book story, in which athletic lovers had inadvertently trashed their homes. It might be thought that anyone who suffered this misfortune might choose emigration or a change of identity over exposure to the public gaze. Instead "a student couple" posed proudly alongside a substantial piece of dislodged plaster, another pair of "steamy lovers" were photographed with a candle of the kind which had set fire to their bath.

If the boundaries between public and private are now blurred, we must also thank Charles and Diana for their respective invasions of their own privacy: the proliferation of confessional television programmes in which private fig-

ures gladly entertain mass audiences with their sexual peculiarities and disappointments; and the increasing number of actors and celebrities who now consider personal revelations a fair exchange for renown — or just a few paragraphs.

Journalists themselves increasingly plunder their private lives for copy, and not only in their columns, where a little personal note, "my three-year-old", "my visit to the gynaecologist", is often so felicitous. In the Times this week, well-known writers have been photographed with their children for a series on family life called "Personally Speaking". There is an enormous difference between voluntary and involuntary disclosure of private circumstances, but these familiarities can only strengthen the belief that the personal lives of public figures are something in which the public has every right to take an interest.

YOU do not have to endorse the excesses of tabloid editors to find the arguments of the pro-privacy camp unconvincing. The loudest complainants tend to be public figures who have been inconvenienced by revelations of hypocrisy, greed, and who have most to gain from an extension of the law. It is not for themselves, they altruistically claim, that they wish to scourge the media, but on behalf of the public. When Jonathan Aitken decided to challenge "the worst media in the world", it was on behalf of a "public interest far more important than my own position".

If the British press is unrivalled in its devotion to trivia and smut, it is possibly partly because so much that is more worthwhile and important is

virtually beyond investigation. Our oppressive libel laws, so skillfully used by Robert Maxwell and his lawyers to conceal his villainy, remain popular with wealthy and powerful public figures so sensitive to criticism that they cannot even be described as "litigious". Humbler figures are also beginning to realise the priceless value of threatened libel actions in keeping unwelcome information from the public. Members of Parliament will now threaten to sue if a newspaper reports unfattering comments made by their political opponents; the Police Federation brought 95 actions for defamation in the 33 months up to March of this year, raking in £1,567,000 in damages. This explains why the public is rarely informed which police station an errant policeman belongs to: the newspaper risks a collective writ from his blameless colleagues.

Where threats of lawsuits cannot conceal the facts, British public life is simply protected from public scrutiny by 250 secrecy provisions in various Acts of Parliament, and by the proliferation of confidentiality agreements and local codes of conduct, which prevent vast numbers of public employees, from hospital consultants to junior librarians, from expressing their concerns to a journalist.

We do not need more secrecy powers: in any case, there is no longer a sense that the private should be secret. How can Sir Thomas Bingham hope to re-educate a nation that recently applauded Princess Diana for broadcasting her infidelity? The borders of privacy have been so eroded, from every direction, that they cannot now be meaningfully defined, let alone rebuilt.

Making the best of a good job



Anthony Parsons

LABOUR'S plans to advertise for ambassadors, reported yesterday, will revive a long-running debate about the merits and demerits of more interchange between the public and private sectors in the field of diplomacy. This debate embraces the notion of political appointments as opposed to professional appointments, as well as Robin Cook's reported notion of recruiting businessmen or -women for countries offering strategic market opportunities.

I have never been opposed to more interchange, and have always envied countries such as the US and France in whose culture there is a far closer nexus between career public servants, politicians, and the academic and commercial worlds. The Americans have, of course, carried the appointment of political ambassadors to an absurd extreme, leading to grotesque appointments in return for contributions to party funds. But this does not mean that all political appointments are bad. A political ambassador can be more effective than a professional in terms of access and the general level of his reception in the host country. Outstanding British examples are Malcolm MacDonald and John Freeman (in India) and no one would quarrel with the assertion that David Ormsby Gore's relationship with John F Kennedy provided him with entry to the inner circle and influence perhaps unparalleled by any other ambassador in Washington at the time. Hugh Cuddeford, my old boss at the United Nations, probably made a greater impact there than any professional would have done.

Hence I would not subscribe to the larger mentality that all ambassadorial posts should be reserved for career diplomats for reasons of professionalism and career structure. The best man or woman for the job should be chosen, taking into account above all the political and governmental culture of the receiving country at the time. For example, in a country recently emerged from colonial rule and totalitarian tyranny, it could be that the only serious contact in the old days was via universities, and that a well-known specialist academic would be a more effective first appointment than a professional. In surveying the field, it would be no bad idea if those responsible for such decisions were to scan the

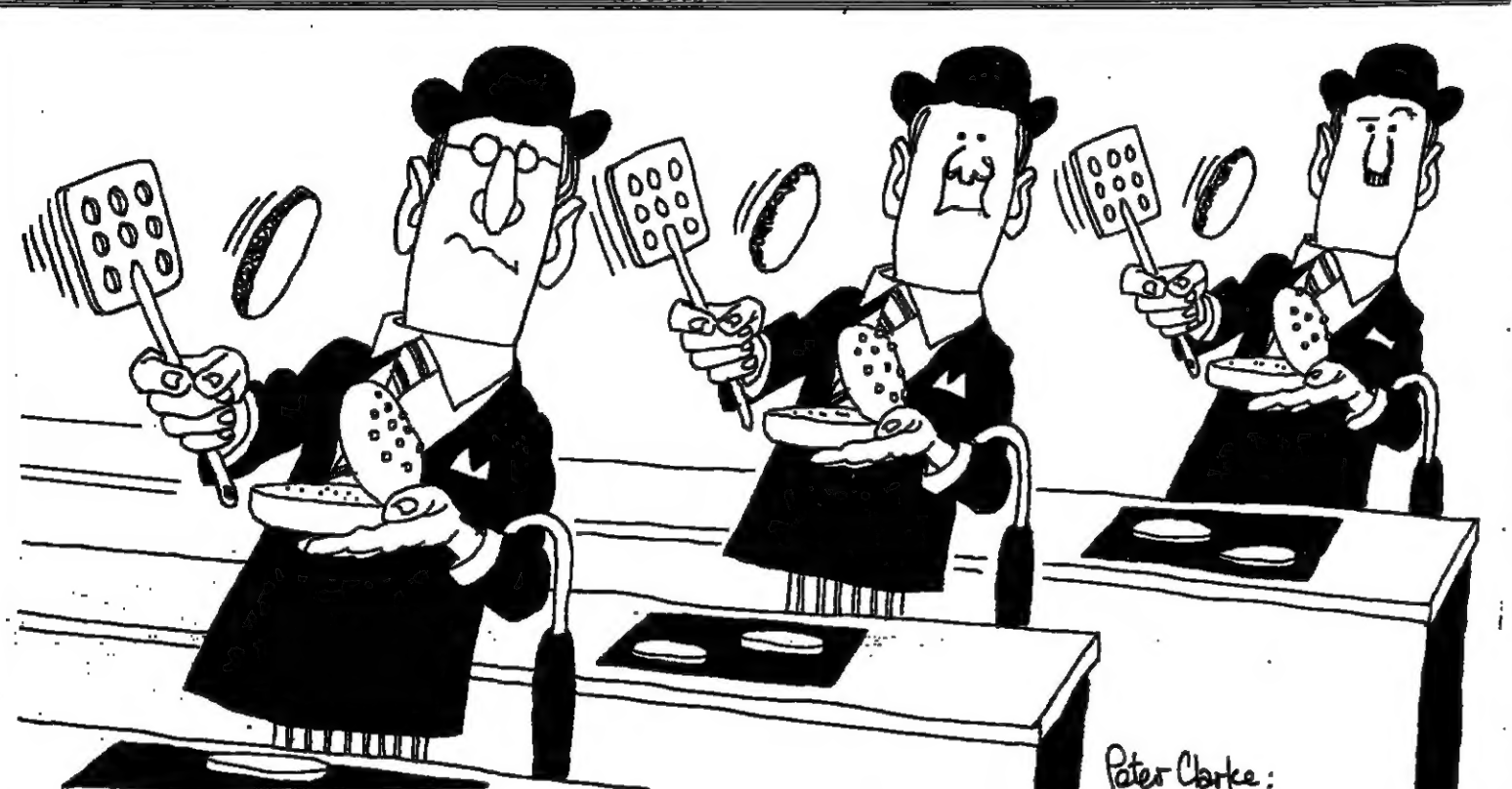
ranks of past and present ambassadors and high commissioners in London to see whether the more successful necessarily emanated from the professional stable.

Having said all that, I have some doubts about the policy attributed to Robin Cook. The most successful attempt to shake up the Foreign Office's culture was not the Central Policy Review Staff exercise in 1977 (I had a lengthy session with them in Tehran), but the Plowden Report of the early 60s. Plowden injected into our lives the batttery of "export or die". From that time on, the diplomatic service has been far more concentrated on trade promotion in all its aspects than in any previous period, and exports have grown correspondingly.

Before making any radical change in the present structure, the following questions must be addressed. What does a receiving government expect from an ambassador and what do British exporters expect (given that they can acquire detailed information from the DTI and from embassy commercial sections)? As regards British firms, what they should look for from an ambassador is political advice — on the stability of country X, its likely political alignments, macro-economics, general attitude towards Britain and the EU etc etc. I was criticised after the event, not least by myself, for turning the embassy in Tehran (1974-79) into a large-scale commercial operation. In fact most of the business visitors who saw me, in their hundreds I should add, wanted to know whether the Shah would last, would there be a military coup, could Iran become the next Japan, and so on. They expected my commercial officers to know all about business, me to know all about Iran.

As regards the Iranian government, they expected me to be able to discuss a wide range of international problems — East/West relations, Arab/Israel, the Persian Gulf, the communist threat in Africa, the future of the EC, Afghanistan, Namibia and much else beside our many bilateral issues. That also is as it should be, and I doubt whether someone whose whole life had been in business would be as well qualified to play this kind of bowling as a professional. A footnote. If I had arrived in Tehran from a position in a British firm, neither my Iranian nor my British interlocutors would have had full confidence in my impartiality when it came to giving advice on commercial matters. The known impartiality of the British public service since the mid-19th century has been one of its greatest assets. It should not be imperilled.

Sir Anthony Parsons was British ambassador to Iran and the UN



Victorian values

John Edmonds wants to give William Waldegrave a lightning tour to show him the reality of life in the burger-flipping, machine-stitching economy

SO William Waldegrave thinks that drudge jobs are a myth, does he? Then come with me to Walton, Liverpool 7. There you can meet some of the GMB members at the local clothing firm — I'm not going to name the company or the real name of the member who is here at our Congress at Blackpool. And I'm certainly not going to repeat what Waldegrave's comments to her. All three acts may result in litigation and, in any case, if she did speak out she would lose her job. Shirley is 49 and has worked as a machinist for a year. She works 89 hours a week. She gets 15 minutes for morning break and 30 minutes for lunch, which consists of sausage rolls. There is no afternoon break unless it's a heat break when the factory gets just too hot. In a normal day she machine-stitches 300 children's

garments. For this she takes home £118 — before tax. £16 per day to live on. And she's a union member. Thanks, William. Thanks a lot. If that does not convince him, we could go to St Helens, where Costs Vitella has just announced the closure of its Rainhill factory with the loss of 400 jobs. Down the road at the JobCentre a backstreet clothing factory is advertising vacancies. Great news, but the advert shows that 16-year-old trainee machinists can get £39 for a 39-hour week. Overlooking, flat-stitching and cover-stitching should take about six months to train on a proper scheme. At this factory wages are frozen for two years. Thanks, William. Thank you very bloody much. This is the norm in today's deregulated labour market. Wages Councils used to look after our poorest paid. But waiters, hairdressers and clothing workers have had their minimum-wage protection

taken away by the Tories. Yesterday in Blackpool I walked past the JobCentre. In the window there was a sad little array of vacancies. If they were the best on offer it makes depressing news for the unemployed of Blackpool. Sales assistant, 26 hours a week, starting at £1.98 an hour for a 16-year-old. Experience needed. Silver-service waiting staff £10 for a three-hour shift. Experience needed. Temporary waiter, 7m to 1am: £20 a shift. Loose-change pay and "hire em fire em" is the order of the day. It is what the Tories wanted and it has become the reality — are you proud of your work, William? The minister is quick to take credit for small falls in unemployment but he fails to mention that three out of every 10 new jobs are part-time. Nearly half of the men who work part-time do so because they cannot find a full-time job. The drop in income for these people last year represented the biggest drop in living standards since 1981. William Waldegrave himself admitted on February 8 this year that take-home pay had fallen. I can think of 8 million reasons why British workers are frightened of losing their jobs. That is the number of working people who have suffered unemployment since the last general election. Those 8 million Britons have families, friends and neighbours — people who have seen with their own eyes the effects of Tory employment policies on those closest to them. To listen to William Waldegrave you would think Britain is experiencing some sort of boom. But the only boom is in exploitation, home repossessions and insecurity. If William Waldegrave took the trouble to talk to his Bristol constituents, he would find that in the South West, 14 per cent of all households have no one in work; one in five homes is in negative equity. More than 700,000 people in the South West have been made unemployed since the last election. Is it any wonder that more than 80 per cent of his constituents feel their jobs are less secure than they were just a year ago? THE facts prove that deregulation of the labour market has forced our workers out of permanent jobs and into poverty pay and short-term contracts. Tory policies have given the green light to the worst sort of bosses who want to slash pay, cut conditions and abuse their employees. And things

are only going to get worse. Under the new jobseekers Allowance the unemployed will have their benefits stopped unless they agree to take on any work straight away, no matter how low paid. The unemployment figures may be falling, but so is the number of people in work. Since the last election there has been no increase in the number of full-time jobs. In fact, Britain's record on job creation is the worst of all the G7 nations — only 20th in the world. Since John Major became Prime Minister more than a million jobs have been lost. With figures like that, I find it incredible that this blithering government can sit back and smugly congratulate itself. Misery, poverty and dread of redundancy have become a way of life for millions of British workers. William Waldegrave should wake up and realise that the problem of low-quality jobs is real, and as long as the Conservatives hang on to their own jobs it won't go away. Fortunately, his days are numbered — 322 days to go and counting.

John Edmonds is General Secretary of the GMB, Britain's general union, and president of the Full Employment Forum

Stand up to the bully

Robert Banks explains why he voted against Bill Cash's referendum bill

THE issues in a general election campaign are numerous, and in my view it is wholly wrong for an outside influence bent upon only one single policy to cajole MPs to accept a referendum or face the consequences of an opponent. Democracy flourishes when MPs are standing for their beliefs and exercising their judgment without coercion. I see Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party — throwing money at

one single issue — as exercising a form of coercion: it is forcing MPs to come to a view supporting the holding of a referendum not necessarily because they have a conviction about such a course, but because they could face an opponent in a general election who could lose them the seat. It is as simple as that. I have been, and remain, implacably against a referendum. In yesterday's vote I was not prepared to sit on

my hands, and voted accordingly. Parliament, through its elected Members, should have an intelligent debate at the right time on the principal issues related to our membership of the European Union and make its judgment. The Cash bill is a Trojan horse for those who want Britain out of Europe. If a referendum were to be held, it would crystallise a question of staying in or coming out of Europe. There is no compromise place for Britain on the sidelines, dipping in and out of discussions and actions over Europe only when it suits us. I see our role as essentially a leading partner without ambiguity, working to shape and control the development of Europe in a commonsense and realistic way, driven by a natural impulse for closer synchronisation. If that means a single currency, so be it if it is demanded. I do not see a federal system as workable, desirable or feasible. The Germans interpret federalism as a loose federation of states with devolved powers. We see it as iron bonds tying us into a central European government system. There is no common understanding of what is being talked about. It is hard enough keeping the UK together, as partner countries such as Spain well know. So I see

no reason to fear the impossible. Britain's industrial, commercial and political interests have to be in Europe, and we should recognise it and stop looking backwards. Not one Labour MP was prepared to vote against yesterday's bill, not even Tony Banks, who spoke against it. I put this down to strict orders to stay out of the lobby lest divisions within the Labour Party were revealed. Certainly there are divisions within the Conservative Party, which have been getting bigger, and I am very deeply concerned. Robert Banks, Conservative MP for Harrogate, was the only MP to vote against the bill yesterday

Advertisement for Pilot V-Ball pen. Text: "No hold ups. No congestions. No wonder it writes faster." Includes image of the pen and a small cartoon of a pilot.



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Finance Guardian

Sweet music for Thorn

Pauline Springett

THORN EMI produced a record set of figures yesterday — its last set of results before it demerges in August — on the back of soaring album sales. Its performance reignited speculation that a bid from one of the world's multi-media empires could emerge.

Pre-tax profit rose to £277.6 million, compared to £271.6 million in 1995. Stripping out the exceptional items, which mainly related to restructuring costs, Thorn's profit jumped by 37.3 per cent to £289.1 million.

All three of Thorn's divisions — EMI Music, TPL (rentals) and HMV (music stores) — produced higher profits. Chairman Sir Ian Southgate, brushing aside takeover talk, said that the last year might prove exceptionally good, but he has no reason for gloom about the future.

Sir Colin and his team have nearly completed the extensive work involved in putting the demerger, which will see the music business divided separately from the rentals operation, Sir Colin said that everything was on track for shareholders to approve at an extraordinary general meeting on 16 August after the demerger, the rare side of the business will run by Thorn and the music side by EMI Group. Shareholders will receive one third share for every Thorn share.

Colin who appears to be playing cards close to his chest simply reiterated that "I haven't talked to a soul for months". He added that the music division's results were good but that any potential buyer would "have to have very deep pockets".

EMI Music's profits rose by 18 per cent to £365.2 million. Top sellers included the Beatles, Garth Brooks, Junes, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Matsuura, Sevens and Smashing Pumpkins. Sir Colin stressed, however, that the division, which operates in 78 countries, has a huge stable of artists, and is not reliant on a few well-known acts. Among this season's best sellers are George Michael, whose album *Older*, released in mid-May, has already sold 2.5 million copies.

Sir Colin was highly optimistic about the division's future sales. Not only was the worldwide market for music products expected to rise at between 7 and 8 per cent a year, but sales in developing countries were showing signs of growing much faster as their populations became wealthier.

Sir Colin was also excited by recent market research which suggested that even sales in the developed world could continue to rise sharply, because the older age groups were buying much more music. "People used to stop when they got married at 25," he said.

Profits at HMV rose by 40 per cent to £19.6 million, largely on the back of a continued programme of new store openings. In 1996, when HMV was established as a separate operation, it was solely in the UK and had 43 stores. It now has 331 stores in seven countries.

The Thorn rental business, also now a global operator, produced a 23.6 per cent profit rise to £187.3 million. Sir Colin said he was particularly encouraged by Thorn's UK entry into the business of renting furniture.



Pumping up the volume... (clockwise from top) the Beatles, Freddie Mercury, Smashing Pumpkins, and Garth Brooks



New row over trading systems as Exchange appoints chief

Market reformers attack choice of former broker chairman, says Paul Murphy

THE Stock Exchange yesterday ended a five-month search for a chief executive, but immediately ran into a row over the pace and direction of market reforms.

Mr Casey, who as chief executive of the Exchange as a representative of the City's big market-making firms expressed his alarm at his pushing through a move to "order-driven" trading — an electronic system for matching buyers and sellers of stock which bypasses London's traditional "quote-driven" market-making approach.

With the Lawrence affair being examined by a Commons select committee and the Office of Fair Trading threatening to investigate share trading practices in London, the Exchange subsequently confirmed that it would still move to order-driven trading for big companies — although not before the summer of 1997, a year later than envisaged by Mr Lawrence.

But yesterday, proponents of order-driven trading in the London market slammed the appointment of Mr Casey.

head of trading at one major brokerage said yesterday.

"We have already seen the timetable moved back by a year or more and now we will have to see how much further the proposals are watered down."

However, Mr Casey insisted yesterday that he does not have "a strong theological position either way" on which system should be adopted. He said he was in favour of doing "whatever the members decide is right".

Exchange chairman, John Kemp-Welch, declined to state what Mr Casey, who worked for stock brokers County NatWest at the time of the Blue Arrow share scandal, would be paid. His predecessor earned £342,000 a year.

Mr Kemp-Welch also said that a "medium-term" business plan for the Exchange, which has been under preparation for the past 18 months, is due to be published early next month.

Other potential candidates for the chief executive's job are believed to have included John Young, former head of the Securities and Investments Board, and also Giles Vardey, director of market services at the Exchange.

Ian Pinderleth, the Bank of England director drafted in as deputy to Mr Kemp-Welch in an attempt to defuse the row, will step down when Mr Casey takes up his position in August.



NatWest buys US bond house

Pauline Springett

NATWEST Group confirmed yesterday that it is buying US bond house Greenwich Capital Holdings for £385 million. The acquisition, from The Long Term Credit Bank of Japan, rumoured for some weeks, is the latest move in NatWest's plan to establish itself as a significant player in the US investment banking market.

The purchase also suggests that NatWest, which is cash rich after a series of disposals, may have ruled out an imminent share buy-back. The purchase price includes an unspecified amount to

cover "the refinancing of employee retention obligations". Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, conceded that the bank had to be prepared to pay well for the best people, but he indicated that remuneration would be bonus-led on performance.

Greenwich Capital, which is based in Connecticut, has about 400 staff and 2,000 customers. Although it is ranked among the top 10 US bond houses in terms of size, it is believed to have only about 3.5 per cent of the market.

Mr Owen said the purchase of a US bond house had not been optional. It was, he said, a business in which the bank had to participate in order to

provide an all-round service. "Our clients are trying out for US product," he said.

He added that NatWest Bank had decided not to set up a US bond business from scratch because it was a specialised market which relied on having an established reputation. If NatWest had done this, it would have only picked up about 1 per cent of the market.

Mr Owen said the acquisition was "another brick in the wall" for the bank. Late last year, NatWest sold its US retail banking arm, Bancorp, for \$3.5 billion (£2.3 billion). More recently, it announced it was considering selling its near-18 per cent stake in ven-

ture capital company 3i. In a deal which could net it about £480 million.

But the bank has also been steadily making acquisitions. In the UK it bought the Gartmore fund management group for £472 million in February. It was also believed to have lost out to Halifax in the recent bid battle for the Life Mutual Clerical Medical — although NatWest has officially never confirmed this.

In the US, NatWest has revamped its investment banking operations. The \$135 million purchase last year of a mergers and acquisitions advisory firm was followed by a series of high profile individual appointments.

Rules 'must be eased to save EMU'

Sarah Ryle, and Julie Wolf in Brussels

CONSERVATIVE Eurosceptics will receive a boost from counter-parts in Europe who today assert that core countries like Germany and France will be unable to implement a single currency in 1999.

The reservations of European academics echoed opposition to the tight Maastricht criteria expressed by European socialist parties yesterday in Brussels.

The 217-strong socialist group could next week insist on a vote to throw out economic guidelines adopted by

the European Commission and EU finance ministers. "These call on governments to curb budget deficits in line with monetary union criteria. The MEPs believe they will receive the full parliament's backing for what would, however, be a largely symbolic move."

They will warn European Union governments that current high levels of unemployment, such as 12 per cent in France, threaten to undermine the EMU project. The socialists favour a more flexible interpretation of the Maastricht rules, as well as lower interest rates and less focus on tackling already-low inflation.

Academics, writing in the latest edition of the Institute of Economic Affairs' Journal, said Germany and France were unlikely to cut their budget deficits to the 3 per cent or less of GDP stipulated by Maastricht.

But even if Germany achieved it, public opposition for \$3.5 billion (£2.3 billion) efforts, according to Roland Vaubel, economics professor of Mannheim university. He stressed the impact of the next key election, in October 1998.

"A German government which, in early 1998, agreed to join the third stage of EMU, would be committing electoral suicide. Opinion polls

show that European Union is the Maastricht is thoroughly unpopular among the German electorate. Roughly two-thirds are opposed."

Pascal Salin, professor of economics at Paris-Dauphine university, said France was even less likely to meet the budget criterion, largely because officials and opinion makers had "a very low level of education in economics".

However, one of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's independent advisors, David Currie, economics professor at the London School of Economics, argued that, even if such obstacles to monetary union exist, a single currency could still be achieved.

Manufacturing falls yet again

Bleak outlook supports rate cut decision but housing on the up, says SARAH RYLE

MANUFACTURERS struggling with recession face continued stagnation over the next months ahead in sharp contrast to other, buoyant sectors of the economy, official figures confirmed yesterday.

City analysts blamed a backlog of unsold stocks and weak export demand, especially in Europe, for the 0.3 per cent fall in manufacturing production in April. Factory output has fallen into technical recession after two successive quarters of decline. It was absolutely flat in the

three months to April, according to the Office for National Statistics which estimates that the growth rate of manufacturing and overall industrial output will remain stagnant.

Although manufacturing was more buoyant last year than was first thought, possibly even boosting GDP by 0.1 per cent following official data revisions, the ONS said these new figures did not indicate a fundamental improvement.

HSBC James Capel economist Adam Cole said: "The

most recent figures remain grim. There is every chance that the coming months will see falls."

There was fresh speculation that unless the sector showed significant improvement, there could be another cut in base rates from the new level of 5.75 per cent.

Analysts said the figures supported last month's rate cut. Nikko's UK economist Simon Briscoe said: "The economy is suffering from more than a temporary spell of destocking blues. If the recovery fails to take hold rates will be cut again as inflation falls."

The ONS survey showed significant decreases in sectors such as machinery and

equipment but factory output growth in the three months to April was 0.3 per cent higher than it was a year ago.

The contrast between factory stagnation and the revival in consumer spending was highlighted by yesterday's separate data showing a second consecutive monthly rise in new orders for private housing in April. It took them to their highest level for over a year, according to figures from the Department of the Environment.

May's production price figures from the US were down 0.1 per cent, easing concern that inflation would provoke the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates when it meets in mid-July.

Notebook

Sabre rattling over Atlantic



Edited by Alex Brumm

AT the third time of trying British Airways appears to have forged a durable Atlantic alliance which will boost its global credentials. The difference this time, with the deal made with Robert Crandall's American Airlines is that BA has achieved the idea of ownership/equity — a route which superseded an earlier potential deal with United Airlines and which has proved such a millstone in the shape of its 34.6 per cent stake in USAir.

If Robert Ayling, BA's chief executive, has made a contribution since taking over from Colin Marshall, it is in redefining what an airline is all about. BA's core activity is providing high-quality air travel, and it does not much matter who delivers them providing the quality of the brand is not diluted. Deals such as BA's previous stakes in Deutsche BA and the French carrier TAT and Qantas represent old-style ownership. The American Airlines link rests much more strongly on branding, service and marketing.

The alliance with American must broadly be considered favourable on several grounds. American is, without doubt, the most financially healthy of all the US carriers and came through the cyclical downturn of the early 1990s much better than its competitors.

This success has largely been attributed to the ruthlessness of Mr Crandall, who uses every weapon at his disposal including Sabre, the group's computer reservation system, to ensure dominance on North American routes. Full and unblended access to Sabre will need to be a critical part of BA's deal if the critical code sharing arrangements are to work.

As important to BA as the code sharing will be full participation in the American Advantage frequent flyer plan (FFP). The FFP, a product of the mid-1980s, has become one of the most formidable marketing weapons in the US, a much earlier and more widespread version of Tesco's loyalty card. Points are available on almost every service from car hire to credit cards and frequent flyers slavishly buy tickets to ensure maximum frequent-flyer advantage. The possibility of racking up miles on BA's worldwide network will make it considerably more attractive to US business travellers.

None of this is to suggest that a BA-American alliance will not be without problems. The position of USAir, with its own routes and some important properties such as the shuttle service between New York, Washington and Boston, will need to be redefined. The possibility of BA selling its USAir stake to American,

clearly has fallen on infertile ground for the present leaving an unshapely triangular alliance.

Rightly, Richard Branson has raised anti-trust questions relating to the possibility of the world's largest and third largest air carriers getting together — an alliance would give them a dominance of North Atlantic gateways unrivalled by other transatlantic deals including Virgin's own with Delta.

Messrs Ayling and Crandall have made their deal dependent on receiving an anti-trust immunity from the US authorities. Under normal circumstances that might be difficult. But if the Clinton administration views it as a golden opportunity to finally open up slots at Heathrow, the new partners may well get away with it.

NatWest bulge

YET another UK player which might have considered whether an alliance with a US partner might have been better than full scale equity takeover is NatWest Markets. It may seem marvellously attractive for NatWest to use the proceeds of the sale of NatWest Bancorp, its US retail banking offshoot, to build a world class investment bank, but that may not be quite what it is getting.

NatWest's new acquisition Greenwich Capital is among the top ten US fixed interest dealers, but there is a difference between the market share of those down the list and the world class bond trading houses such as Salomon Brothers. The combination of Glascheer, the investment banking boutique, together with Greenwich, does not constitute a global player.

Investors, who marked NatWest shares down yesterday, appeared less than impressed. One point to bear in mind is that under its previous Japanese ownership, Greenwich had a ready-made client list in the Japanese investors which, over the years, have helped to finance the US budget deficit. This could easily fade away under NatWest ownership making the \$690 million paid for Greenwich look less than prudent.

Clarke's hand

THUS far, the Chancellor appears to have the upper-hand in the war of nerves with the Bank of England over last week's interest rate cut, with both the producer prices figures and industrial production pointing to an economy stagnating.

By contrast, however, the evidence of a robust consumer recovery (supported by the latest data from the British Retail Consortium) grows stronger daily posing the risk that Kenneth Clarke may find himself in the traditional Tory position of stoking up a pre-election boom.

It is an issue which both the Chancellor and Governor will be anxious to address in their Mansion House speeches tonight — although no major changes in inflation targeting are expected.

Court grants injunction against Asda in Anadin price cut battle

Ian King

ASDA, the supermarket group, has last week removing Anadin Paracetamol, the top-selling aspirin, from the shelves of its 207 stores after the High Court banned it from selling the painkilling drug at a discount.

Asda, which has been at the forefront of a campaign against retail price maintenance — the agreement that sets a minimum price at which drugs can be sold — immediately said it was considering an appeal against the injunction, granted to Anadin's maker Whitehall Laboratories.

On Monday, Asda halved the price of a packet of 24 Anadin tablets to 88p. The move enraged Whitehall Laboratories, which took its case to the High Court

when Asda refused to reinstate the original price.

The High Court ordered Asda to restore prices to the legally-enforced level of £1.72 for 24 tablets.

Welcoming the decision, Whitehall Laboratories said it had taken its action because of its support for retail price maintenance, and attacked Asda's move as "misconceived".

It was backed by the Community Action Pharmacy Group, which represents 10,000 pharmacists.

However, Gwynn Burr, Asda's marketing director, said: "We estimate that for every pound spent by the customer on Anadin Paracetamol, 80 per cent is profit margin for manufacturer and retailer. So much for the argument that this is all about support for neighbourhood pharmacies."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.87	France 7.7050	Italy 2.330	Singapore 2.11
Austria 16.04	Germany 2.28	Spain 0.5425	South Africa 6.48
Belgium 46.87	Greece 363.00	Netherlands 2.5675	Sweden 192.50
Canada 2.04	Hong Kong 11.57	New Zealand 2.22	Switzerland 10.20
Denmark 8.85	India 53.75	Norway 9.80	Switzerland 10.20
Finland 7.155	Ireland 0.6450	Portugal 237.00	Turkey 116,820
	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.72	USA 1.50

Supplied by NatWest Bank excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel

Consumers still have to pay £400m atom levy

Electricity bills will be cut by up to £20 but customers will continue to fund clean-up of reactors. SIMON BEAVIS reports

ELECTRICITY customers will have to pay £400 million this year to help clean up old nuclear reactors despite a decision yesterday by the industry regulator to cut the annual subsidy paid by consumers, reducing bills by up to £20.

Stephen Littlechild, the director general of electricity supply, expects to cut the so-called nuclear levy from a 10 per cent surcharge on all bills to a 3 per cent charge for five months from November 1. This will bring price cuts of between £15 and £20 on an average domestic bill of £264.

Ministers promised to scrap the nuclear levy in 1990 to pay for the decommissioning of ageing Magnox reactors — when it completed the privatisation of the country's eight most modern reactors owned by British Energy.

But they were forced to backtrack on the commitment after the build up of substantial arrears in the amount designated for the nuclear industry.

The levy was initially set at a rate of 10.8 per cent and was supposed to decline steadily in the eight years to 1998. But it rose to 11 per cent in the second year and has remained at 10 per cent ever since — raising some £1.2 billion a year for the nuclear industry.

The Government has courted fresh controversy by agreeing to pay a further £3.8 billion of taxpayers' money to Magnox Electric — the company formed to own the old reactors not being privatised — to fund the clean up of the stations.

Critics argue that the clean up bill is in effect being paid twice over by consumers to smooth the path of next month's privatisation of British Energy.

Professor Littlechild said: "In setting the levy rate I have always been conscious of its effect on customers. My policy has been to set it at the minimum level consistent with the regulations. In a full year this change in the levy will reduce the bill of a typical domestic consumer by some £15 to £20."

Energy Minister Tim Eggar said the news was "yet further good news for electricity consumers". Bills were already at their lowest since 1974 and he pointed out that customers had had a one-off 250 cut this year because of the fall of the National Grid.

But Labour said the cut would be eaten up because of the 7.5 per cent VAT on fuel bills. Energy spokesman John Battle said: "What would be even better news would be if the Tories called off nuclear privatisation which is a last desperate dash for cash in which taxpayers are subsidising a massive 40 per cent fat salary for the board of the privatised company."

The National Consumers Council welcomed the cut, although it said that most customers did not even realise they were paying the subsidy. Acting director, Robin Simpson, said: "We do not see why the consumers should be paying this levy in the first place. Consumers are bearing the brunt of this subsidy which is, in effect, a hidden tax."

Meanwhile, East Midlands Electricity, one of the four regional electricity companies not bought out or in takeover talks, poured scorn on the recent flurry of merger activity in the electricity and water sectors.

Chief executive Norman Askew said the benefits of many of the mergers would prove illusory unless companies could achieve much greater cost savings. He refused to comment on whether the company, a frequent subject of takeover speculation, was in talks with possible bidders.

Mr Askew revealed that pre-tax profits for the company remained almost flat at £214.2 million last year before taking account of a £73.3 million credit from the sale of the companies stake in the National Grid.

A new price cap on its distribution business cut profits by £31 million. But the results were bolstered by savings of £23.5 million, partly from the cut of 160 jobs, and a £26 million windfall from the sale of the Grid's pump storage business.

Mr Askew said job cuts and savings would continue at a similar rate until 1998.

Under the terms of the deal, Boots is paying a nominal £1 for WH Smith's shareholding in Do It All, which boasts 199 branches and 6,336 employees.

The agreement also obliges WH Smith to pay Boots £50 million to take Do It All off its hands, of which £10 million is payable at once, with the remaining £40 million in equal instalments over the next four years. WH Smith

will also write off £85 million of goodwill following the sale.

Boots intends to keep 124 of the stores, and in an upbeat presentation to analysts yesterday, chairman Lord Blyth said the group was pleased to do so on the terms agreed.

The news comes as no surprise. According to WH Smith's new chief executive, Bill Cockburn, the company has injected £75 million into the venture over the last five years. Closure would have presented "unthinkable" costs to the group, with many rents having between 15 and 17 years to run, while the offer from Boots was the only serious one.

WH Smith's wish to dump Do It All was well known in the City, and arguably, Mr Cockburn's desire to get rid of it has made him a hostage to fortune. For the former Post Office boss was appointed only five months ago, and was given carte blanche to address deep-seated — problems of which the cash hemorrhage known as Do It All was the greatest.

Unfortunately, there were not too many prospective buyers for WH Smith's stake while Boots, with its £600 million cash pile, was quite happy to hang on until the DIY market improved. The pair had worked hard on Do It All, installing several state-of-the-art systems, and Boots — quite reasonably —

wanted to reap the benefits. A cynic would say Boots had Mr Cockburn over a barrel.

The sale marks the end of a six-year joint venture, which began when WH Smith agreed to merge Do It All with Boots's Payless subsidiary.

But the subsequent collapse of the housing market, along with intensifying pressure from rivals like B&Q and Sainsbury's Homebase chain made the DIY market a bloody place to be in the early-to-mid 1990s.

The fact that jobs notwithstanding, the future is now clear for both Boots and WH Smith, and possibly rozier, a result of yesterday's acquisition. Employees at the 65 stores now up for sale will be less enthused, as will the several hundred WH Smith staff whose jobs are also under threat.

For the sale of Do It All is just one plank of WH Smith's rehabilitation under the pugnacious Mr Cockburn, who is coming to the end of his honeymoon period, and who later today will announce the findings of an extensive review he has conducted of the group's businesses.

Already Mr Cockburn has reduced WH Smith's debts with last month's £144 million sale of the Nicoderm business supplies operation, but greater changes are afoot.



Unrepeatable bargain or poisoned chalice... analysts are divided on Boots' acquisition of the remaining 50 per cent of Do It All, which has 199 stores. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEBSTER

WH Smith spends £50m putting Boots in to Do It All

OUTLOOK/DIY shake-up should benefit both former partners, says IAN KING

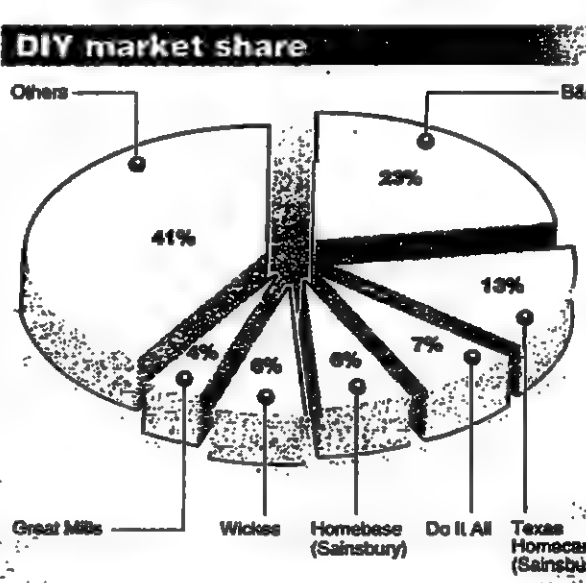
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Northern beefs about milking

planned. Instead, Mr Haskins did envisage employing additional staff this year.

Mr Haskins was scathing about the Government's handling of the BSE crisis, although he stressed it was not a serious problem for Northern. British beef was perfectly safe to eat, he said, but consumer confidence had been severely dented. He said he was unhappy about the Government's dealings with Europe over the beef ban.

Mr Haskins said that if the Government had ensured that animal feed regulations were enforced properly in 1988, BSE would not have become a

problem. He said the crisis would probably cut £5 million off the group's operating profit in the current year. However, although BSE would hit some of the company's prepared foods products, it was helping to boost the sales of non-beef foods.

The company was also sharply critical of Milk Marque which it said had adopted a "King Canute" approach to milk prices by failing to reduce them despite the fact that market conditions ought to be making them fall.

Milk Marque replaced the Milk Marketing Board in 1994. It is the UK's largest supplier of milk and the dairies and other milk buyers, such as Northern, argue

it exerts a monopolistic influence which keeps prices artificially high.

He said if Milk Marque did not reduce its prices at the next pricing round in July, there would be an industry row. The issue is currently the subject of an Office of Fair Trading investigation which should report soon.

Northern buys 60 per cent of its milk from Milk Marque with the balance bought directly from farms. Mr Haskins said he eventually wanted to buy all Northern's milk directly from the farmers, arguing that it was clearly preferable for the company to be able to trace its milk back to individual farms.

News in brief

£100m plastics plant will create 200 jobs

UP to 200 jobs will be created with the construction of a new £100 million plastics plant in Scotland, it was announced yesterday. A further 300 people will be employed during the construction of the new complex, at Grangemouth on the Forth of Forth, which will manufacture polypropylene, a versatile plastic used in products ranging from car bumpers to carpets and crisp packets.

According to the owners of the new complex, Apoyl — a joint venture company formed by Elf Atochem and BP Chemicals — the plant should be fully operational by 1999. Scottish industry minister George Kynoch said: "Apoyl's announcement today is good news for Grangemouth and good news for the Scottish economy."

Amersham products boost

AMERSHAM International, the life sciences and health care group, yesterday said successful sales of new products had led to a lift in full year pre-tax profits by 8 per cent to £50.8 million. The group, which was forced to put out a profits warning last November, said trading during the second half of the financial year had been an improvement on the first half.

Bill Castle, chief executive, said the improvement showed underlying strength of the businesses and the improvement in the life science and health care divisions. Amersham employees' "promising" sales of ThermoSequenase, its new enzyme product, and Myoview, its cardiac imaging product, Amersham shares gained 23p to 1043p by the market close. — Ian King

Salisbury deadline nears

THE fate of Salisburys, the luggage chain of collapsed British retailer Facia, could be sealed by noon tomorrow, the deadline offers for the stores. "There has been a considerable amount of interest shown in Salisburys, with well over 100 sales particular having been sent out to interested parties in the last few days," said Maurice Withall, a partner in Facia receivers Grant Thornton.

"These have resulted in a number of preliminary offers and therefore we have decided to set a deadline of Thursday noon for Mister Minit for a 'substantial sum', leaving 130 stores still for sale. — Reuter

Tarmac profits warning

TARMAC chairman Sir John Banham yesterday underlined the still-fragile state of the construction industry by warning that the group will report "headline" profits, for the six months to June, "well down" on the equivalent period last year. He said difficult markets had been compounded in European and North American markets by exceptionally bad weather. — Excal

NFC's transport of delight

NFC, the transport group headed by new BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland, yesterday announced a better-than-expected 43 per cent improvement in its year pre-tax profits to £49.1 million. The group, whose British businesses include Exel Logistics and home removals outfit Pickfords, said the benefits from its recent restructuring programme had already started to show. NFC shares closed on 171p, up 20p. — Ian King

Severn payout rises by 14pc

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

ABUMPER £118 million payout for investors and a huge rise in profits at the Severn Trent water company reignited political controversy yesterday over the earnings of utility companies.

As Labour renewed its warning that it would impose a windfall tax on water companies, Birmingham-based Severn Trent announced it was raising its ordinary full-year dividend by 14 per cent to 32.7p and that it would cut dividend cover from 2.8 times to 2 by the end of the decade, raising the prospect of even higher payouts.

Announcing pre-tax profits up by 38.4 per cent to £73 million on turnover of £1.17 billion, Severn Trent also reiterated its determination to bid for South West Water. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is considering possible bids from both Severn and Wessex.

Shadow environment secretary Frank Dobson accused Severn Trent of putting "profits before customers". At £1.7 billion since privatisation they are the highest in the industry. He said the company's pipes had leaked more than 115 million gallons every day last year.

Criticised recently by the industry regulator, Ian Byatt, as one of three companies to allow leakage rates to increase, Severn Trent said it would spend an extra £40 million over two years and halve leakage to 14 per cent by 2000. It is also spending an extra £50 million to avoid limits on supplies this summer. Reservoirs are 87 per cent full.

Vic Cocker, group chief executive, rejected Labour's call for a windfall tax. "It ignores the fact that we are privatised, to finance a big improvement in quality standards."

Mr Cocker said he would pursue alliances with other types of utility, forecasting that it would be normal for utilities to offer a range of services. The shares closed unchanged at 584p.

Babcock's profits plunge to £3.1m after al-Mas'ari clash

Ian King

ENGINEERING group Babcock International yesterday blamed falling orders from Saudi Arabia, following the al-Mas'ari affair, for a slump in full year pre-tax profits from £7.8 million to £3.1 million.

Babcock, which signalled its difficulties in a profits warning earlier this year, said it had suffered a significant loss of orders in its process division which had led to substantial trading losses.

Announcing chairman, John Parker, said the loss of orders had been due to "well-publicised issues associated with UK-Saudi

Arabian political and trading difficulties.

"We greatly regret the loss, since Saudi Arabia has been a valued and long-standing customer base. The considerable diplomatic efforts made by HM Government at very senior levels to support our endeavours have been very much appreciated, and we look forward to re-bidding for that market when normal trading conditions are restored."

Babcock is one of several British firms hit by falling Saudi orders following the government's failure to deport Saudi dissident Mohamed al-Mas'ari.

Babcock shares closed up 1p at 85p on the figures.

Nicklaus offers slice of his empire

Golden Bear right on course, writes MARK TRAN in New York

JACK Nicklaus golf's Golden Bear is taking a swing on Wall Street by selling a \$27 million (£15 million) stake in his golfing company.

One of the most successful golfers in the history of the game, Mr Nicklaus is to unload 1.8 million shares of Golden Bear Golf at an estimated price of \$15 each.

Since his halcyon golfing days, Mr Nicklaus has become a successful business tycoon, combining commerce with his love for the sport. He has designed 124 golf courses in 25 countries and licensed the Nicklaus name through about 20 companies in some 35 countries to market sportswear, luggage, belts and other goods.

Golden Bear Golf will be spun off from his closely held Golden Bear International in North Palm Beach, Florida. The proceeds will be used for

working capital and general corporate purposes, including repayment of a \$1 million debt to Mr Nicklaus.

Golden Bear businesses range from the ownership and operation of golf practice and instruction centres to licensing the Nicklaus name. The company owns two practice centres and has signed an agreement for a third.

It has ambitious expansion plans, having identified 60 to 70 markets that can support one or more of these facilities and plans to acquire 19 additional facilities by the end of 1997. The proceeds from the share sale may be used to pay for these or for additional advertising and product expansion.

Golden Bear had an operating income of \$450,000 in the first quarter of this year, up from \$447,000 a year before. Revenues rose to \$4.57 million in the 1996 first quarter from \$4.25 million a year earlier.

Mr Nicklaus is one of several professional golfers to have transferred their skills on the putting green to the business world. Arnold Palmer led the way, and more recently, Greg Norman, known as the Shark, has taken up the mantle.



Wall Street swing... Jack Nicklaus hopes to raise \$27m

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "باصول الله" (Bismillah)

Ice Hockey

Colorado sweep the ice

THE Colorado Avalanche completed a clean sweep over the Florida Panthers yesterday to win the Stanley Cup in their first season after relocation following 16 fruitless years as the Quebec Nordiques.

They defeated the Panthers 1-0 in Miami to wrap up the series with a fourth successive win when the veteran German defenceman Uwe Krupp scored in the fifth minute of the third overtime just after 1 am to end the longest game of a final series since Edmonton beat Boston in 1990.

The Florida fans greeted Krupp's strike by showering the ice with plastic rats, a favour normally reserved for Panthers goals.

Krupp was an unlikely matchwinner because he had appeared in only six games before the final series after injuring a knee in October and he did not start playing again until April. He had not scored in the regular season, but made up for that by firing the target on four occasions in the finals.

Although the final glory belonged to Krupp, the Conn Smythe Trophy for the MVP went to Joe Sakic, whose 18 playoff goals were one short of the NHL record held by Philadelphia's Reggie Leach and Edmonton's Jari Kurri.

"For the rest of my life I will always remember this moment," Sakic said.

Colorado's captain, center Patrick Roy, a previous winner with Montreal, enjoyed his eighth successive finals victory and is now two games short of the record held by Ken Dryden.



Unstoppable Avalanche ... Colorado's Joe Sakic celebrates Uwe Krupp's winning goal

Racing

Shantou in shape for Royal Ascot

Graham Rock

SHANTOU, a strong-finishing third to Shaamit in the Derby on Saturday, is expected to make a quick reappearance in the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot next week.

"He had to drop his rider this morning, hucking and kicking," said trainer John Gosden yesterday. "He's not had a hard preparation. He had a run 10 days before the race, a blow-out since the race and he's come out of it well."

Some described Shantou as an unlucky loser but Gosden was not disappointed by the result.

"It was a rough race, that's the nature of the Derby, but the best horse won, the second-best horse was second, and the third-best third. You've got to have the pace to hold a position, the class to get there and be able to prove your classic hopes."

Gosden has had a quiet start this year and admitted: "I am having my worst season ever." Injury has blighted his classic hopes. "Basically I had two or three key horses break down. It happens."

A few of his team are still suffering from a muscle enzyme problem which has prevented them from running, but the stable plans to have 10 runners at the Royal meeting. They include Tamure, runner-up to Laumtara in the Derby 12 months ago. He might make his seasonal debut in the Hardwicke Stakes, "as long as the ground is good, otherwise we might delay his comeback."

Michael Stoute, too, will be keeping an eye on the weather during the next week or so. His impressive John Porter Stakes winner Election Day will take on Tamure provided the ground is not too fast and Rocky Oasis, second to Shantou at Sandown last month, could renew rivalry in the King Edward VII Stakes, which will be the penultimate race of the meeting this year.

"He's exciting," said Stoute of Election Day, a rare compliment from a trainer who regards superlatives as taboo words.

Warm, dry weather is expected to continue until at least the early part of next week and Nick Cheyne, clerk of the course at Ascot, said he would water to ensure that the going did not become too fast for Britain's best-known meeting, which carries prize money this year in excess of £2 million for the first time.

Stoute's Dr Massini, who was same-post favourite for the Derby before going lame three days beforehand, could meet Shaamit in the Budget Irish Derby on June 30.

"He had a shoe put on Saturday, exercised on Sunday

and cantered on Monday. The Curragh is a possibility," said Mark Johnston's trainer. Mark Johnston has lost the race to get Double Trigger ready in time for the Ascot Gold Cup. Double Trigger will defend his stayers' title in the big race on Thursday but Double Trigger's rival, the Royal meeting on the Goodwood Cup last year, will probably wait for the Doncaster Cup in September.

Ladbrokes have opened betting on the Queen Anne Stakes, the first race of the Royal meeting on Tuesday, and make Godolphin's Charnwood Forest a short-price favourite at 5-4 with Timarida second best at 4-1.

The St James's Palace Stakes will probably be the strongest race of the meeting with three Guinness winners in the line-up.

Hill's have installed the Irish 2000 Guineas winner Spinning World at the head of the market, on offer at 3-1, while the French winner Ashkalemi is 5-2.

Mark Of Esteem, successful at Newmarket, is 7-2, and the Guineas third Biju d'Inde at 6-1, with Beauchamp King a 10-1 chance.

BHB target betting duty cut

THE British Horseracing Board aims to have betting duty cut to 5 per cent when it meets with the Treasury at the end of next month, its chief executive Tristram Ricketts said yesterday.

Its proposals will have the backing of a £38,000 study of the racing industry by accounting giants KPMG.

After lengthy lobbying from the racing industry, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke lowered betting duty from 7 1/2% to 6 1/2% in his November budget, a cut which took effect in the nation's betting shops from March 1.

"What we want to do now is show that we have a healthy and viable racing industry that is of great value to the government, and to encourage its growth further," said Ricketts.

Beverly with guide to latest form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 2.00 Lavalh Flat, 3.00 Resport A Sprint, 3.30 University of Lincolnshire and Humbershire...

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 4.00 Emerald Mines National Handicap, 4.30 New University Maiden Stakes, 5.00 Open Leasing Institute Maiden Stakes...

Kempton evening card

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 6.45 Maiden Auction Stakes, 7.10 Alford Maiden Handicap, 7.40 Simple Logic (ch), 8.10 Purvane Waters...

6.10 GUARDIAN PROPERTIES HANDICAP 1m of 6.15.15

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 6.10 GUARDIAN PROPERTIES HANDICAP, 6.45 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES, 7.10 ALFORD MAIDEN HANDICAP...

Hamilton programme tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 7.00 Sorbusa thery, 7.30 Siroind, 8.00 Eddy Rustwacker, 8.30 Talented Time, 9.00 Ben's Ridge, 9.30 Lord Advocate...

7.30 HAMILTON ADVERTISER AMBERLEY HANDBICAP OF 6.15.15

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 7.30 HAMILTON ADVERTISER AMBERLEY HANDBICAP, 8.00 TEN PAST SIX, 8.30 TEN PAST SIX, 9.00 TEN PAST SIX...

Yarmouth runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 2.15 Alverne, 2.45 Bold Oriental, 3.15 Easy Duffler, 3.45 Barrowed Crankers, 4.15 Sea-Deer, 4.45 Patchwork, 5.15 PARGA (imp), 6.15 HOPTON CHANDISERS STAKES OF 6.15.15...

5.15 NORMAN FILLES' HANDICAP 5YO 1m of 6.15.15

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 5.15 NORMAN FILLES' HANDICAP, 6.15 HOPTON CHANDISERS STAKES, 7.15 HOPTON CHANDISERS STAKES...

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 2.15 ALVERNE, 2.45 BOLD ORIENTAL, 3.15 EASY DUFFLER, 3.45 BARROWED CRANKERS, 4.15 SEA-DEER, 4.45 PATCHWORK, 5.15 PARGA (IMP), 6.15 HOPTON CHANDISERS STAKES...

RESULTS

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SALISBURY

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names. Includes races like 2.00 (6) 1, GREEN JEWEL, Dore O'Neill, 2.30 (6) 2, SINGERS (4-1), 3. WIG TO...

Large advertisement for 'Double Play' featuring 'RACELINE' and 'Play' with various betting odds and promotional text. Includes a large 'Play' logo and 'Double Play' text.

EURO 96

Group C: Italy 2, Russia 1

Double dose from clinical Casiraghi

Russia sees red over fans



SOMEWHERE in Liverpool port sits a boatful of lonely, apologetic Russians. Well not quite a boatful: 100, actually. But they are angry and it is all the fault of our man in Moscow.

Vladimir Modelevsky was one of the few who managed to disentangle himself from the red tape and reach England. Yesterday he arrived in Liverpool and took sanctuary in the Russian cruise liner Astra, which is providing cheap accommodation.

Not only that, said Andrei, but: "If we wanted to defect we certainly wouldn't try to come here. We have lost a fortune because of these bastards. If this had happened in Russia we would have known how to deal with these people."



Oh no, Onopko... Gianfranco Zola beats the Russian defender's challenge at Anfield yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

ian Ross at Anfield

ONE round of matches gone and already Group C seems irreversibly shaped. This victory for Italy, coming on top of Germany's demolition of the Czech Republic, means that matters may already be done and dusted before next Wednesday's eagerly anticipated meeting at Old Trafford.

Italy played poorly at times but they still won with much to spare — a skill England would do well to master. But above all yesterday was a triumph for Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi who opted for Pierluigi Casiraghi instead of Fabrizio Ravanelli and was rewarded with two clinical strikes from the Lazio striker.

Italy could even afford to pull off the gifted Alessandro Del Piero at the interval, another Sacchi decision which paid off handsomely. Much more of this and the tifosi can dispense with their rotten tomatoes for good.

The game represented a fascinating, if fractured, meshing of differing footballing philosophies. Long before Russia assembled in the nearby haven of the oval ball, Wigan, they proclaimed their game would revolve around power and stamina. It was not so much a brazen promise as an honest admission that their best chance of extending their stay lay with steamrolling their more refined opponents.

Above all they needed a good start to trundle into gear; instead they found themselves a goal down inside five minutes. It came from a mishit Charchesov clearance which travelled barely 35 yards before falling at the feet of Di Livio. Overcoming an obvious sense of surprise, the Juventus player nudged his first-time ball into the path of Casiraghi.

Before those Russian defenders prepared to backpedal could converge on him, the striker swept a low shot into the bottom corner from 25 yards with the goalkeeper completely stranded.

Against a side of Italy's defensive capabilities it was a serious blow but the Russians, prompted by Kanchelskis, produced some composed moves and deserved their equaliser after 20 minutes. A four-man move swept its way through the blue line so effectively that once the ball landed at Ilya Tsybalar's feet there could be little doubt about the outcome.

Russia's Footballer of the Year in 1995 did the necessary well, dragging the ball lazily forwards before steering his shot just inside the near post. Zola tried an immediate response, but his glancing header dropped wide. Soon the Russians grew in strength and confidence and, as Blackburn Rovers discovered to their horror against Spartak Moscow in last season's Champions League, Russian football tends to move along space even in those moments when the tempo slackens.

The appearance of the experienced Donadoni in place of the fading Del Piero at half-time underlined Sacchi's refusal to favour celebrity players and the expectant Italian supporters who commiserated the Kop did not have long to wait before relaunching their celebrations.

On 51 minutes Roberto Di Matteo and Zola combined to open the way for Casiraghi to deliver another excellent finish from 12 yards. The goal was his 10th in 32 internationals and made him the first man to score twice in Euro 96. It was time for the Italians to turn on the style and Charchesov soon led to throw himself bravely at the feet of Zola who had risen from almost the halfway line. Russia's substitution of Tsybalar underlined their frustrations, as did a 25-yard volley from Alexander Mostovoi past the right-hand post.

But the Italians were forced to take a sharp intake of breath in injury time when Tsybalar's replacement, Dobrovolsky, was inexplicably left unmarked in front of goal. His shot was lifted over the bar and Russia's chance had gone. All that was left was for Casiraghi to reveal that he knew a whole lot more about Anfield than anyone had expected. "I watched Liverpool as a young boy and to come here and see the writing 'You'll never walk alone' was very emotional for me," he said. "It's the best moment of my career. The first game is always very difficult, but to

come here and score two goals in such a stadium is great." Such problems with self-esteem are pervasive. In a weekend review of the team's prospects, the English-language Turkish Daily News concluded: "Coach Fatih Terim has done a fine job just in reaching these finals — anything more will be bonus. Turkey could yet slip back into its previous obscurity."

Respect for players is also limited. One star performer is languishing in jail on charges of evading tax when importing a Mercedes. The national No. 1 goalkeeper Rustu Racher, of the Istanbul club Fenerbahce, is said by many to be too inexperienced — at the age of 24.

The star striker Hakan Suker ("The Bull of the Bosphorus") left Galatasaray for a year to play for Torino but flopped. It was said, because of homesickness, he later very sportingly blamed his bad form

on the break-up of his marriage. But for his wife Esra, he told one paper: "I would have been a world-class player by now."

Until yesterday Turkey had been happy to bask in the satisfaction of merely being invited to the party. Inclusion in the tournament was thrill enough for a nation that looks west and yearns to be accepted as a member of the European Union.

"Well, we may be 100-1 outsiders," Adam remarked, "but we're not as bad as the Czech Republic." A hostage to fortune if ever there was, that.

Gordon Milne, the former Coventry manager now in charge of the Turkish club Besaspor, had warm words of praise for Turkey going into last night's match. "Nobody will top this Turkish squad for determination. They have tremendous pride and a high degree of technical ability. Turkish clubs learned the modern trend of proper diet and preparation long before anybody in England. They are very well prepared and physically, tremendously strong."

Group D: Turkey 0, Croatia 1

Sub Vlaovic sinks Turks with late solo winner

Martin Thorpe at the City Ground

A GOAL five minutes from time by the substitute Goran Vlaovic put Croatia top of Group D last night and silenced the massed ranks of previously excited Turkish supporters.

It had not been a vintage performance by the Croats but, typically, they scored on the break as Turkey pressed forward. Vlaovic picked up the ball on the halfway line and his fresh legs took him on a run towards the goal but ended with a cool finish past the goalkeeper Rustu.

The onus had started brightly for Turkey with 20,000 vibrantly noisy, flag-waving supporters, nothing short of delicious at their country's first ever participation in the European Championship.

Nottingham Forest's ground is no stranger to big European nights, but even it had heard nothing like the frenzied chants which greeted Turkey's every attack, the boos that followed every refereeing decision against their team, and the disconcerting mass whistling that chipped away at the Croatian players' concentration whenever they had the ball. Thrill it was, but sporting it was not.

In terms of numbers, Croatian fans were understandably under-represented, given their recent domestic circumstances. Just a small knot the side of Wimbledon's away contingent huddled in one corner. But what they lacked in numbers they made up for with pride at seeing their new country's independence culturally confirmed by their first participation in one of soccer's major tournaments.

Though all the familiar names and pre-tournament expectation belonged to Croatia, the Turks were determined to show they were not here just to make up the num-



Stimac... disappointing

bers. And the proof that they possessed the action to go with the words came after just 11 minutes when Serzen's smart, perfectly timed ball inside the Croatian defence. Jarni released the stylish wing-back Ognin into the area. His cross was cleared but the threat was there for all to see.

So positive were the Turkish management feeling about the game that instead of playing a lone striker, Hakan, as expected, they started with three up front. Although Serzen and Aris were expected to drop back when Croatia had the ball, Turkey could actually Rustu up five forwards on the break as the wings-backs joined in.

As the first-half wore on Croatia began to blunt the early Turkish enthusiasm and create chances of their own. Not many, but Asanovic set up Stimac for a header at the goalkeeper, and shortly after Boksic sent another just over.

Asanovic will be back in England for the new season, having just signed for Derby County for \$250,000. The midfielder may not be joining his Croatian team-mate Stimac at the Baseball Ground, however, for the defender is being over for the defender is being chased by Manchester United. Last night Alex Ferguson was having a look and what a tough test Stimac and his West Ham compatriot Bilic were having coping with this

lively Turkish attack. As the rain came down in the second half neither team was exactly pouring forward and chances were few and far between.

In the 55th minute the highly rated Boban of Milan became the first player in the game to be booked and shortly after was substituted after a disappointing performance.

In fact none of Croatia's star overseas players — Real Madrid's Suker, Juventus's Boksic or Barcelona's Prosinecki — were particularly outstanding as the team once again failed to live up to the sum of its part. In fact Boksic was also substituted.

On 21 minutes the Croats did fashion a decent chance. Jarni's deep cross from the left finding Suker's head at the far post. But the striker could only direct the ball back across the face of the goal and wide of the other post.

Turkey had come close when Tugay shot over from 25 yards, then Ognin shot wide from 40. But the fact that the Turks were resorting to long distance told its own tale about the growing prominence of Croatia's defence.

Croatia's best chance of the game up until this point came on 30 minutes when the substitute Vlaovic, the eventual goalscorer, was released into the area but his promising run, cutting in from the left, was expertly halted by the Turkish goalkeeper Rustu who bravely dived at the striker's feet.

Ten minutes from time, as Croatia turned up the pressure, they won a free-kick on the left. Prosinecki fired in a ball to the far post which Suker missed completely when he really should have got his head to it. Turkey's Rustu, Vedadi, Rahim, Alpay, Cengiz, Akocelik, Toktas, Tugay, Serzen, Hakan, Aris, Croatia: Ladic, Jernan, Bilic, Stimac, Slanec, Jarni, Asanovic, Boban, Prosinecki, Suker, Boksic, Rastvorac, S Muhamedhalic (Switzerland).

Going bananas in Diyarbakir

Owen Boycott reports from South-east Turkey as Euro 96 tensions bubble up

ALL week Turkey had been praying for victory but preparing itself for the worst as the euphoria generated by the national team qualifying for a major tournament for the first time since the 1954 World Cup seeped away.

"Sixty Million Supporters" declared identical headlines in the mass circulation Hurriyet and the daily sports paper Fotomac. "Come on Lions!" an inside story was headed, betraying more loyalty than confidence. But around the street cafes of Diyarbakir, a Byzantine-walled city in the South-east swollen by the influx of refugee Kurds, expectations were as low as the wooden stools on which the old men squat as they

click backgammon counters around their boards. "Croatia will win for sure," ventured Adam, a street trader, before the kick-off. "Turkey is not a professional side. They sell all their players to Europe. They are slayers."

In a nearby hotel bar, an evening drinker predicted that the national team would lose by five goals to the Balkan favourites. No one threatened to spill his rage. The optimists were those who hoped Turkey could slug it out to a goalless draw.

Turks — and Kurds — do feel passionate about football. The cobbled back alleys are full of grubby, shaven-headed kids kicking semi-deflated plastic balls around and getting under the feet of veiled women.

The country seems to put as much passion into losing as winning, too. This city went bananas a few weeks back when Diyarbakir failed to win promotion to the national premier division for a second year running. The club's red-and-green colours were burned in the street, bank windows were broken and supporters cut themselves with knives as if in the grip of a Shi'ite fervour of self-mutilation.

"The police stopped the protest only by firing up-risers," explained a local, gesturing into the air. As the Rough Guide warns visitors: "It is not unknown for a losing team to be attacked by its own supporters after a game." Such problems with self-esteem are pervasive. In a weekend review of the team's prospects, the English-language Turkish Daily News concluded: "Coach Fatih Terim has done a fine job just in reaching these finals — anything more will be bonus. Turkey could yet slip back into its previous obscurity."

Respect for players is also limited. One star performer is languishing in jail on charges of evading tax when importing a Mercedes. The national No. 1 goalkeeper Rustu Racher, of the Istanbul club Fenerbahce, is said by many to be too inexperienced — at the age of 24.

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Euro 96 results

Group A table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes England, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Scotland.

Group B table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes France, Romania, Spain, Bulgaria, Hungary.

Group C table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes Italy, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic.

Group D table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes Croatia, Turkey, Denmark, Portugal.

Remaining fixtures: Tomorrow: Switzerland v Holland (7.30, Villa Park), June 15: Scotland v England (3.0, Wembley), June 16: Holland v England (7.30, Wembley), Scotland v Switzerland (7.30, Villa Park).

Remaining fixtures: Tomorrow: Bulgaria v Romania (4.30, St James' Park), June 15: France v Spain (6.0, Old Trafford), June 16: France v Bulgaria (4.30, St James' Park), Romania v Spain (4.30, Old Trafford).

Level best not good enough

ENGLAND'S failure to change the 1994 World Cup finals could prove their undoing at Euro 96 if they finish level on points and goal difference with their Group A rivals.

In the event of that happening UEFA will use the four teams' qualifying records for the last three major championships — this tournament, the 1992 European Championship and the World Cup two years ago — to decide who will qualify for the quarter-finals.

It leaves England, who did not have to qualify for Euro 96, at a disadvantage as they have the worst record of the four teams with 30 points from 16 games for an average of 1.87. Holland have the best with 60 points from 28 games

for an average of 2.14, with Switzerland (52 from 26 at 2.0) next and Scotland (53 from 28 at 1.89) third.

Bulgaria's players have threatened to leave their training camp near Scarborough. They are unhappy that there is little to do at the Ravenscar Hotel and at the amount of travelling involved to and from games.

They had a 90-minute journey to Leeds on Sunday for their opening Group B game with Spain and their final two matches at Newcastle, against Romania and France, will mean round trips of around four hours.

If Bulgaria left Scarborough it would be a financial jolt for the local council, which has sponsored their visit to the tune of £25,000.

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YOU could forgive John Gorman for thinking that as Glenn Hoddle's No. 2 with England he might have been allowed into the media centre at St James' Park to watch Scotland-Holland on television. But Newcastle gatekeepers did not get where they are today by allowing Scots with fancy titles into the ground unless they arrive with the proper pass. So Gorman was barred and retired to the nearest pub to cheer on his boys. But he will be in for the Big One at Wembley on Saturday? And who will he support? And will Wembley's strict segregation policy allow him to sit next to his boss?

NOW hear this England. A room has been set aside in the Leeds hotel where Spain are staying to allow the players to relax away from the endless requests for autographs and interviews. Inside the room are several pool and snooker tables and two fridges full of refreshments, one stocked with bottles of beer and lager and the other with cans of soft drinks. As of yesterday not one bottle had been touched.

SO who needs Cantona? Yesterday Christophe Dugarry gave the official French line on the enfant terrible. "We have made a good start and that is important to us," said the bearded striker. "We did it without Cantona and Ginola and that is important too. It has proved we do not need to rely any more on those moody kind of people." So there you have it: They're just moody Blues.

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Take that... Geordie protest



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SportsGuardian



Howey... twisted ankle
England coach brushes aside press reports of late-night drinking by his players



Knees up... Sheringham, accused by the tabloids of enjoying a night out, dances round Phil Neville, watched by Ince

PHOTOGRAPHS: FRANK BARON

Richard Williams reports

Angry Venables turns on 'traitors'

THE tribulations of Terry Venables's England squad deepened yesterday with the news that their 48-hour leave had produced two further damaging episodes. One cost Venables the services of Steve Howey, who twisted an ankle during a training run and is almost certainly out of the tournament. The other led the coach to accuse the press of seeking to damage England's

chances by turning the public against the team. After the affair of the China Jump Bar and Cathay Pacific Flight CX126, the tabloid papers have been on the alert for more episodes of social indiscretion. On Saturday they were handed the ammunition when Teddy Sheringham, Jamie Redknapp and Sol Campbell chose to hold their private inquest into the disappointing performance against

Switzerland at Faces, a disco in Ilford, Essex. Yesterday the Sun led its front page with the news that they had been seen drinking beer and had left the club at 2.30am. "I haven't read the papers but I know all about it," Venables told the morning press conference after a training session at Bisham Abbey, "and as far as we're concerned it's finished." Asked if he minded players being out at

that time of night, he replied: "No. Look, everyone had gone home to their families. These were three young boys who kept together and had a beer. They've come to me all together, agast with it all. They just sat in the corner and had a couple of beers. How long it was, I don't know. But I accept their word." They were allowed to drink alcohol on their days off, he explained, although there was

no drinking while they were in the team's hotel. "We know we've got to be disciplined, and they have been. I've got no complaints whatsoever. If they're going to relax, let them relax, as long as they haven't upset anybody, which they haven't. I can't see the point of saying you can have a night off but you must stay in your house. If you want to have a couple of beers at home, fine. In the main, those who have families are at home. Or they've gone out to dinner. And if they go out for dinner with their wives, they could have the same amount of beer as three guys together, but you wouldn't notice that. "In Italy and Spain the players drink wine every day with their meals. I was at Barcelona for three years and we had to drink red wine for lunch and dinner. When the Irish were doing it you were all thinking how funny it was. But all of a sudden it's us, and it's a different attitude altogether. I don't understand it." Venables told reporters that he was dismayed by the way the players have been portrayed. "I think it's awful. But

we're getting hardened to it. We just don't understand that it's necessary to do what you're doing. There are a few that seem like traitors to us. They're turning the public against the players, which can turn them against them in the stadium. "If there's an advantage to being at home, we aren't taking advantage of it, are we? The support isn't as strong as we should have. Therefore the advantage, if there was one, is disappearing." He had been in the game long enough, he said, not to take criticism personally. But on behalf of the players he felt the situation was deteriorating fast. "Now it's insatiable. What is the aim of trying to turn the public against the team?" Had the poor performance against Switzerland made any difference? "I'm not going to say you can have a beer if you win and you can't if you lose. That would make me seem like a silly little boy. I'm trying to get them to stick their chests out and play like men, so they have to be treated like men. In my opinion as yet they haven't abused that."

And now over to you, Deuteronomy



Vincent Hanna

LOOK, I know that as an emerging nation we are entitled to a crack at a major championship, we are doing our best — the Villa Park pitch looked almost flat on Monday night — but are we ready for Euro 96? Look at its effect on susceptible minds. Like mine for one. First my executive producer Mrs Lapping, who has zero interest in football, slides up to me in Channel 4 and asks: "Was Venables wise to take off Mollanman?" Made me very nervous that she might have turned violent. Then, as I settled down in the shed to watch Scotland, Granada TV arrived to interview Sinead about *la philosophie de Cantona*.

most devoid of journalism. Commentators and pundits on both channels treat Euro 96 as if it is only a football championship. Studios are filled with careful managers and players, who ignore the tabloids and talk back: "Good technical player that, very strong in the centre-to-front area." Criticist, especially on ITV, is confined to mild but respectful disappointment. Meanwhile in the parallel tabloid universes inhabited by Gazza and Uri Geller, we gorge on fantastic stories. If we are told that at half-time on Saturday five of the England squad slipped off for a few beers, we believe it. Back in the shed we mopped up the tea and sang a hymn to make my wife feel guilty. The Rev Greg quipped: "Paul Gascoigne is suffering from illness and fatigue — the fans are sick and tired of him." I shouldn't have laughed. "He should remember what God said to the other St Paul," said Greg. "And what was that?" I asked. "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks, Acts 9:5." He's a hoot, is Greg.

As a deficiency in my nervous energy level has made it difficult to last the full 90 minutes of television coverage. Take ITV's twin strikers Brian Moore and Kevin Keegan. Splendid individuals no doubt, but they shouldn't play together. They never shut up. All you can hear is something like: *You'd have to be disappointed about that, Brian. I'm disappointed, Kevin. To be honest, Brian, that seemed a harsh decision. Harsh is the right word, Kevin. I'd say harsh, Brian.* What do they mean by "harsh"? "Harsh" suggests the referee might have imposed a lighter punishment, like taking the penalty 10 yards further back. I assembled my critical viewers' panel last night to debate these matters, and they nearly wrecked the shed. Greg the vicar arrived filled with righteousness. "Look at my slow-motion replay," he said. "Stuart Pearce approached the tackle with arms raised, before the ball was struck."

We then decided that television, whilst not encouraging the scandal, might at least inquire into some of the more obvious ones. Doctors say that alcohol is the worst preparation for sport, but nobody asks Terry Venables even to tell how many beers make "a few". Terry says the team has been well prepared and don't believe the papers, and Des Lynam says okay Terry, best of luck mate. There are managers and players in both studios who know what's going on, who have strong views about team preparation, but who stay silent. TV Sport, I suppose, argues that it is the job of TV News to do the dirty work, but everyone knows that TV Sport gets the real access. Radio Five Live, as a news and sport network, provides a more rounded service.

MARKS so far: Barry Davies and Trevor Brooking head the list; their informed, economical performance illuminated the France-Romania game. Just behind them, and well ahead of most others, are Alan Parry and Ron Atkinson, who excelled with Holland-Scotland. Coming up fast is the new double act of Hansen and Gullit. Greg is Scottish and has taken to reciting Deuteronomy 28:35 aloud. He says it's relevant for Saturday and you-know-who. *The Lord shall smite thee in the knees and in the legs with a sore botch that cannot be healed.*

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The major problem in the romance of Paul and Sarah is that football gets in the way. "So," says Hornby, "in that sense we haven't gone completely AWOL. You still hear the word Arsenal several million times."

G2 page 4

Guardian Crossword No 20,677

Set by Paul

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,676
cribing 6-day 14 — process forming germ-cells (13)
14 Development has nothing erected in and out, perhaps? (9)
16 9 — unfamiliar one claimed by Henry Cooper? (7)
18 National course organised for apprentice? (7)
19 Infernal river bird goes after Bill? (7)
20 Foes' woman with two mothers East or mother in West? (6)
23 Ancient tribe, a chapter of a historic enigma (5)

- Across**
- 1 Report of 9 is causing gooseflesh (6)
 - 4 Model taken by 9 to cold, cold sea (6)
 - 9 Catch 22 (4)
 - 10 9 and property are blown up by the French — appalling taste! (4-6)
 - 11 9 on the head (6)
 - 12 Much illness is caused by alternative medicine replacing nitrogen with phosphorus (8)
 - 13 Producer of energy that's supposedly green with revolutionary cycle (9)
 - 15 9 that's also at sea (4)
 - 16 Scream as fire is quenched at its source (4)
 - 17 Information meant to be displayed round Leatherhead for square (9)
 - 21 Keep warm in 9, nearly 10! (8)
- Down**
- 22 Burning for a clue (6)
 - 24 Evidence of hunger in 15 — vitamins should be distributed, (short of time) (10)
 - 25 9 of sovereign-ruled states expelling M.P. (4)
 - 26 American gives frightened squeal never in retreat (6)
 - 27 Harms 9 invaded by guerrilla leader (6)
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Thursday June 13 1996

is race hate sweeping

Burning church

G2 with European

Major order abuse inquiry

Home

NEW COMING... taken to... to... the... taking... to...

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